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JULY 17th, 1980 ★ ISSUE NUMBER 29

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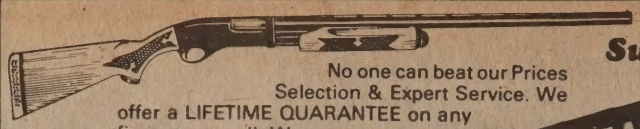

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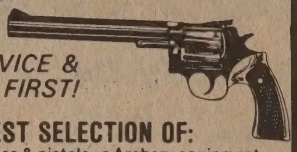

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CHUM LINES

SHARK SAFETY

I hope Bruce Klappert hasn't lost any fingers. He is pictured in June 26's issue, page 27 of L.I.F. with his right hand supporting the head of a recently caught blue shark. Either Bruce did not read last week's issue of L.I.F. about rules of shark fishing or he has never heard of the Solomon Rule which says that a shark doesn't die until sundown. There was plenty of daylight in the photo that he and his buddies sent in of their catch. *E. Held, Babylon.*

Good point. And they don't necessarily die at sundown, either! Scott S.

TROUBLE AT THE BORDER?

One of the most shameful cases in history of ruthless slaughter of fish and shellfish is going on right now off Canada because neither President Carter nor the State Department has pushed to have a fishery treaty with Canada ratified. The Senate itself is neglecting the treaty.

Because American scallop fishermen were not satisfied with their share in the treaty, they have worked to block it in the Senate and have been exceeding their quotas—with no control by our government—to justify a renegotiation for a larger share. According to the Canadian Government, the future of the scallop industry is being threatened by this overfishing, and they, in retaliation, are allowing their fishermen to catch more cod, haddock and yellowtail flounder. If allowed to run its course, this situation could undo much of the improvement in supplies of our winter species.

If neither our government nor the fishermen themselves have more respect for law and the resources of the sea than this, especially in a negotiation with an ally we so recently applauded for getting six of our citizens out of Teheran, it is not surprising that our fisheries are not improving as fast as they should after the establishment of the 200-Mile Limit. *Frederick S. Lightfoot, Greenport,*

Unfortunately, the American people are represented in matters such as these by one of the most anti-American establishments in the world—be it free, third, or communist. It's known as the United States State Department. Scott S.

PECONIC FISH TRAPS

Peconic Bay has long been known for its superb weakfishing, which is enjoyed by thousands of men, women and children. However, I would like to point out my observations and

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The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 15, Number 29 **July 17th, 1980**

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About the Cover—

Charlie Nappi with the 22-lb. 7-oz. doormat fluke that he caught in 1975 that is still the IGFA All-Tackle Record for the species. Eight of the nine world record fluke were taken in New York or New Jersey waters. See Al Ristori's article on page 16.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **SUMMER WEAKFISH**

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Fred Golofaro ASSOCIATE EDITOR
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The Fighting Chair

with William A. Muller

The Pain of Responsibility

The Constitution of this great country is clear: for each right and privilege we enjoy, there is a matching responsibility. Of course, we delight in our rights, but responsibility brings pain: that is, we often must choose between what we would like to do and what we know we **should** do. Doing what we should do can be painful, or at the least less pleasant than what we want to do. Still, if we are to remain a strong and a free people we must live up to our responsibilities.

It also seems to be true that as the world becomes more complicated and crowded that there is less pressure to do what is right. It seems somehow too easy to hide and thus, convenient to ignore responsibility. The law tells us many of the things we can and cannot do; but in a society that theoretically prides itself on a meaningful morality and abundant good will, there are far too many matters of behavior that are left to common sense and are not covered in the law. This fact implies that the citizens will both recognize and value responsibility as it pertains to all matters of behavior, however small, and all matters of importance. And to this point, we have lately come to believe that perhaps we have lost that characteristic known as **common sense** and have evolved in its place a new trait. This new trait has no easy-to-remember catchy name and thus can only be called the "I don't give a damn for the other guy" trait.

Where will this new trait take us? Will it allow us a better adaptation to survival as all new traits should do if they are to have value? Natural law suggests that if a new trait is not helpful it will disappear. However, man has transcended natural law far too easily and thus we are confronted with the rather real possibility that this new trait will survive in spite of its poor adaptive value through a combination of convenient technology and an over-sophisticated society.

What prompts all this nattering? It surely must have something to do with fishing or it wouldn't appear in The Long Island Fisherman. True, and indeed there is a link that is at once obvious and vague. The other day as I was contemplating a poor fishing spring and the general absence of bass from the beach, I remembered a phrase that has been shouted and whispered to me by many of our island's more famous bass sharpies. It goes something like this—and I use quotations only in the general sense. "Sure I wish that they would make striped bass a game fish, but until they do I'll continue to sell them." Often, in the next breath I'd hear something like, "When will somebody do something to protect the bass?" Now, I'll not preach here about not selling bass, because although I personally am not willing to do so, I don't think we can be certain that it is either definitely bad or good. However, what is of importance is the inconsistency of the remarks. We must ask, who is "they" and where are the "somebodies" referred to in the comments? In honest analysis, the "theys" and the "somebodies" are us—ALL of us! It is unfair and lacking common sense to blindly ask the question as if such matters were in the domain of some haughty committee established by God for such purposes. There are no "theys" and "somebodies"—only people: legislators, politicians and voters. What is passed into law and what is not passed into law is a result of the interaction of all of these pieces, plus a few extraneous others.

Is it proper to sit back and point a finger at a criminal when there are sins within us? Is it proper to continue doing that which he or she does not believe to be correct simply because others do it, or because there is lacking a law to say it is so? Thus, we come back to responsibility. In a free society, we are expected to do what is right whether or not there is a law to that effect and whether or not others do it or do not. This should be so because within us there is a conscience that compels us to be true to ourselves and to each other!

Second example: I was fishing a favorite stretch of beach the other night

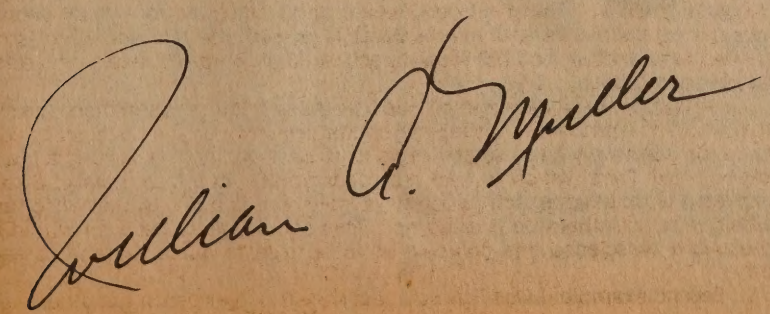
and although there was nothing happening at all and there were few fishermen in view, I did see one fella that I thought I recognized, so I approached him to say hello. He immediately began to tell me about his fifteen-year-old nephew who, yesterday, caught a thirty-seven-and-a-half pound bass from this very beach. As he told the story, I became very excited and pleased for the youngster. Imagine, I thought to myself, a fish like that for such a young guy. What a thrill that must have been for him. And then the bomb dropped. The guy tells me, with great ease and no regrets, that this fifteen-year-old boy took that fish to market and sold it for fifty dollars. I was rattled! Aren't there more appropriate ways to handle such a great fish? Can it be that this young boy repeats this feat regularly? The second question was answered for me as the young man came bouncing along. It was obvious in both his gait and his ear-to-ear smile that this was a fish of his young lifetime. So why wasn't the fish given a position of honor on the wall of his family's den? Why wasn't the fish immortalized on film before the beast was ceremoniously carved and consumed? Why, perhaps, wasn't the fish released so that the young man might experience two great fishing thrills in one evening: that of catching and that of returning a great fish to the sea? As many times as I thought about it, I couldn't come up with a sound enough reason to deliver that fish so unceremoniously to the fish store except that the "almighty dollar" supersedes all other considerations—even in a young man of fifteen tender years.

Then two nights later, I was watching a very interesting television show about mountain gorillas. The show explained how a courageous young scientist, Dr. Diane Fosse, went to Africa years ago to study the mountain gorilla. She discovered them to be peaceful, gentle, and loving; and in all the years she has worked, observed, and played with them she has never been attacked or even threatened. Further, the narrator explained that these great animals are in danger of extinction because of man. Man is methodically destroying the habitat of the gorilla and converting it into farmland. Man is illegally bringing his cattle into the forest to graze. Man is illegally poaching in the forest and although the gorilla is not the target of their efforts, many young gorillas are maimed and killed by the illegal snares set for antelope and other small game. WHY??? I cannot stop from asking why. How can man allow such a great animal to disappear from the earth, and be so callous about it. No remorse and no regrets. I recall the poaching of elephants which continues in Africa at a frantic pace because of the value of ivory. The poachers insist that the sale of ivory is their means of making a living. But, could they not do something else? Do not other people work at other jobs? And, even if what they say is true, can man afford to bring the elephant to extinction for any reason whatsoever?

I would trade a thousand men for one elephant in the ecology of this planet. How can we be so callous about the creatures who give us enjoyment, beauty, and food? Isn't there a parallel here incidentally, between gorillas, striped bass, and elephants? Isn't there also a link to the human species? Can man himself survive if we bring to extinction too many of our brothers? The zealot answers too quickly. He points out that these are primitive peoples and backwards cultures. They need education. They need financial assistance. They need laws to protect their land.

However, is there such a difference between these situations, except that that is Africa and this is Long Island? Is there any difference between the extinction of the striped bass species and the extinction of all gorillas? We think not, and we suspect that man, Western man, with all his technology and education needs to re-examine his behaviors and compare them to common sense patterns and analyze them with unfettered logic. Perhaps we need to rediscover the things that were once so important and whose value and import have somehow dimmed with modern life and time. Perhaps the time has come to go fishing for fun and relaxation without an eye on the dollar sign. Perhaps the time has come to compartmentalize our lives with more logic and less contempt.

"The starving man bellows: 'Cry for the elephant, cry for me'."



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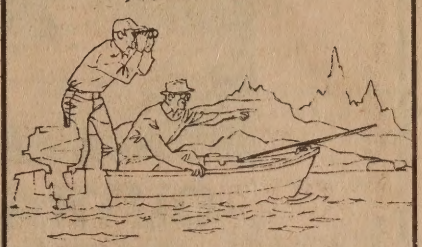

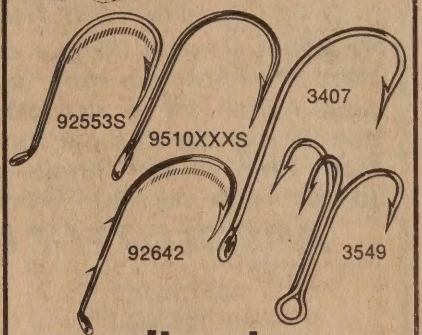

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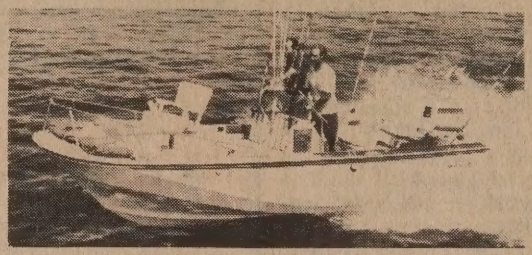

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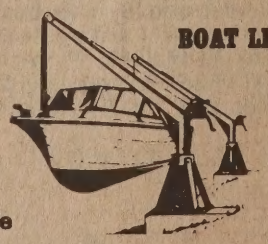

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experiences over the past three years.

In 1977, four of us would go fishing in "South Race, Cows Neck" area of Peconic Bay and on a decent day, catch 25-30 fish between us. (Some others did better; some worse.) At that time, there were two commercial fish traps, and I personally observed them virtually loading their large boat with thousands of weakfish.

In 1978, a good day was now four fish per man. Also present were now three commercial fish traps, again loading up.

In 1979, a good day for average fishermen was two to three fish per man—four commercial traps loading up.

Now, in 1980, a good day is one fish per fisherman (at best). I am talking about the average—some lucky ones (they may be better fishermen than average) do somewhat better.

But, now there are six (6) fish traps, still loading up.

A casual observation could be made that the more traps there are, the less fish are left for the hook and line fisherman.

I realize the commercial trap man wants to make a living, but it seems to me that they are getting too hungry.

What about the rest of us?

What about boat liveries, renting boats, selling lures, baits, motors, etc.?

If these nets continue at this rate, they will wipe out fishing stocks to the point where there is nothing left for any of us, especially if they continue this wholesale netting of fish during the spawning season.

I would like to respectfully suggest some sort of legislation where this superb fish can continue to be enjoyed by the sport fisherman (who eats his fish) and also remain reasonably profitable to the commercial man.

Perhaps a limit of two (2) nets (same size) on the commercial man and a limit on the hook and line man of six (6) fish. The gill netting in Great South Bay should also be looked at. I realize this is going to generate a lot of flak from both directions, but hopefully it may at least start a dialogue to some sort of agreement that could keep all of us somewhat satisfied. Let's be reasonable: give everyone, including the fish, a chance. *John S. Rozansky, Mattituck.*

We agree with you that the entire estuarine commercial fishing scene needs a hard look-see. As our population has grown, so has our interest in leisure time activity. Thus, there has been the inevitable conflict that must occur when there is significant competition between groups with differing goals, philosophies, and methods. Regulations and practices that were fine for 1900, are simply absurd today. That's why we have thrust ourselves into the entire debate and will continue to push for a re-examination of estuarine commercial fishing. However, we feel that it is incumbent upon us to point out that there is no data that proves that either the Great South Bay gillnets or the

pound nets in Peconic are responsible for decreased fishing quality for weakfish in recent years. That is not to say that harvesting is not a factor in stock reduction, but simply that we have no supporting data for either the sportsman's point of view or the commercial position. That is why we have always urged our readers to attempt to secure changes on the basis of defendable positions rather than on biological grounds. The defendable positions include economic conflict and social conflict. Finally, we concur: let's give the fish a chance!! Dr. W. A. M.

TROUBLED BY INCREASE IN COMMERCIAL FISHING

I do quite a bit of surf fishing in the Port Jefferson, Miller Place area. This spring every time that I have been out, I see draggers dropping their nets, and I have heard that there are twelve in the Sound. On one occasion, two boats came within a half mile of White Beach in the evening. I feel that they are wiping out local fishing and having a serious effect on the fragile bottom environment with their operations.

On my trips out to Greenport this spring, I've noticed a continuing increase in commercial fishing from this port. Boats from Virginia and the Carolinas are unloading boxes of weakfish every afternoon. At Montauk, the same thing is happening with cod and pollack.

I thought that the 200-Mile Limit would save fishing on Long Island from those "nasty" Russians and Japanese. From what's happened around my area, I think that American "fast buck" artists are the real enemy, and if the price of fish stays high they will clean out the waters.

Why are these boats coming to Long Island and what can we do to regulate their catch, control their fishing areas or get rid of them? After talking to the Conservation Department, I'm not very optimistic about making any sudden improvements. I think that a saltwater license is a good idea if it gives fishermen a voice in making laws about netting and other related problems. I'm not going to buy a license just to stand in the empty surf! *Tom Sobik.*

Pass It On...

STATE MONEY FOR MORICHES INLET?

Assemblyman John L. Behan (R, C-Montauk) today said he has been assured by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation that State funds already authorized for the Moriches Inlet stabilization project will be available as soon as repairs begin.

Following an announcement earlier by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that the Federal Government has approved its share of the $4 million project, Behan contacted the State agency to reconfirm its previous commitment to the project.

"Even though New York's share of the project cost was already approved in the 1980-81 state budget earlier this year, I wanted to be certain the Environmental Conservation Department was ready and willing to move ahead," the lawmaker said.

"It look as though we have a green light. The only remaining business is for the Army Corps to officially notify the state of its decision and sign the necessary paperwork."

Under the plan, stone or sandbag revetments at both the ocean and bay sides of the inlet will be constructed. The Federal government will pay $2.8 million of the cost, while New York will pick up the remaining $1.2 million. Suffolk County will then reimburse the state for $360,000 of the cost.

"With many homes in danger of being flooded, and the shellfish industry jeopardized by the increased salinity of the water, the approval for the repair project is a welcome sign," Behan remarked.

"Special thanks are in order for Ed Eaton, Chairman of the Phase Two Committee for the Stabilization of Moriches Inlet, and the committee members for their diligent efforts in seeing this project on its way to becoming a reality."

IN MEMORIAM: SAM MAURO

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of one of the most respected, knowledgeable, and dedicated fishermen to ever ply the waters of western Long Island Sound.

Sam Mauro, known affectionately by his friends and relatives as "The Old Man of the Sea," passed away July 8th at the age of 69 after a bout with cancer.

Sam was truly a legend on the New Rochelle waterfront. He began fishing as a child. Over a fishing career that spanned more than 40 years, Sam became one of the best striped bass fishermen New Rochelle has ever known.

Those of us who knew and loved Sam fondly remember him quietly piloting his 16 foot wooden dory among the rocks doing what he loved best—trolling for stripers.

Sam is survived by his wife, Florence, his daughter Barbara, three sons, Peter, Michael and Sam, Jr., and twelve grandchildren.

The many friends of Sam would like to extend our sincrest condolences to his family. Sam will be missed very much, but he will always be remembered as a warm and devoted family man, as well as a great fishermen.

Sam's Friends.

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FISH TALK
with William A. Muller

SUMMER DOLDRUMS

IS THERE SUCH A THING AS summer doldrums fishing? There is no doubt that fishing goes through two frantic periods in our waters. The first occurs from about mid-May through most of June, and the second occurs in the fall—beginning in late September and continuing into early November. The impetus that produces each great fishing period is different. In the spring, the fish are either spawning or have finished their yearly reproduction ritual. Thus, they are very hungry and need large quantities of food to either build up the body prior to spawning or replenish reserves consumed by the rigorous task of spawning. Then, too, water temperatures in late spring and early summer are similar to the fall active period. During both periods, there is plenty of bait. In spring, many of the baitfish are spawning and there are adults as well as minute juveniles. In the fall, the juveniles have reached substantial size and begin their own migrations out of protective waters into open water. In the fall, the game fish are building up fat reserves to help them during the long migration and to sustain them throughout the winter. This brings us around to the original question. Is there such a thing as the summer doldrums? Yes, in comparison to the spring flurry of game fish activity, the summer period offers far fewer fish within reach of most fishermen and the remaining inshore specimens aren't as eager to eat as they were. However, there are still fish to be had and some darn nice fish at that.

IF YOU CAN FIND FISH, THE SUMMER IS AN ADVANTAGE! The big if there is "IF" you can find some fish. However, assuming that an enterprising fisherman can work his/her butt off and find fish, when those fish are located it is likely that they will remain at that location for a prolonged period of time. The fish may actually feed there and be available to fishermen for the entire summer. Why? That's easy. The very conditions that produce the "dog days" work in your favor. The bait isn't migrating: in fact, they stay in one place. The weather is usually very stable and that means there isn't likely to be a severe coastal storm or sudden temperature shift to drive the gamesters and the baitfish to new quarters. Now, finding fish during the hot summer is one thing, but getting them to hit is another. The fish will not likely be eager and there will be none of the surface smashing antics of fall. They may be there, quietly feeding and the fisherman can pick away at them with persistent effort. One or two fish a night may not seem like a great accomplishment, but if the fish are of worthy size, then it becomes a worthwhile activity. It is true that during a week of hot fall fishing, an angler can produce a half-dozen fish or so in a tide and perhaps several dozen nice fish for the week. However, the hot action isn't likely to last too long. A front, a coastal storm, a sudden drop in temperature and the fish are off to new areas. Now, if you pick at fish through the summer and take maybe two to six nice fish a week, at the end of the summer you can have two to four dozen nice fish. Which is more productive?

HOW TO COMPENSATE FOR THE DOG DAYS! The fisherman can compensate for the difficult fishing conditions aggravated by the onslaught of summer heat. First, fish at night. Water heats and cools more slowly than the land and, therefore, the water will be at its coolest temperature right before and through the hours after dawn. The combination of warm inshore water and a bright sun will keep the fish out of the shallows during the day. The air will be cool then, too, and the angler is likely to be more energetic when he fishes in reasonable comfort. If you fish from a small boat and can't fish at night, or if you seek the species that are not known as night feeders, then begin your trip at dawn and continue until about ten o'clock; then quit.

FISH IN DEEP WATER! The shore-bound fisherman may have difficulty with this one, but there are spots along the beach that are adjacent to troughs and holes. The water will be cooler in the deeper spots. The boat fisherman can often find deep holes, especially with the help of an electronic depth recorder. Almost any species will gather in these deeper spots. Anchor and chum for porgies, for example; or if you're after fluke, you can drift allowing your bait to slide down one slope and then rise up across the next.

FISH THE INLETS. Fluke may gather up at the entrances to south shore inlets. The ocean is a big place and it takes many days for the heat of summer to warm up the vast Atlantic. Fluke, weaks, and even bass may congregate there. Often the fluking at the inlets can be superior, while elsewhere it is almost a waste of time.

OFFSHORE WEAKS! The most distant of the wrecks will produce cod and pollack all summer long, but it will take a big boat and plenty of gas to get you there. Still, there are those who enjoy these pilgrimages and they will likely be well rewarded. The deep wrecks contain these fish because the water down there is quite cold. Closer to shore, the wrecks will produce blackfish, fluke, sea bass, porgies, and some blues. Here the water will be cool, but not too cold for these summer species. This is a good trick to remember and one that the party boat skippers aren't shy to put to good use.

THINK ABOUT MONTAUK! Montauk is closer to the open ocean than many western areas—especially the bays. At the same time, the summer's congenial weather often makes for very calm days. The water may be as much as ten degrees cooler than to the west and porgies, fluke, sea bass, blues, weaks, etc., etc., can feed heavily all summer long.

OFFSHORE GAME FISH. The sharks, billfishes, and the tuna tribe love these hot, sultry days. In this day and age there are many facilities all over the Island and excellent ones along many south shore ports for pursuing the giants of the deep. You can charter from a large selection of sleek sportfishermen and you can take your own vessel out there too. One word of caution: make sure that your boat handling skills and your navigation are up to snuff and read as much as you can about handling those giants before you go. Of course, this applies if the trip will be your first. Experienced skippers have learned their lessons and know well that caution on the big water should be the watchword.

THINK LONG ISLAND SOUND! Bluefishing gets rolling in the Sound during the so-called "dog days." Of course, much the same occurs off the south shore inlets where party boats begin day and evening trips for the choppers. The head boats out of Freeport, Captree, Sheepshead Bay, etc., chum for the blues for the most part; but in Long Island Sound the blues can be readily available for the small boat operator as well. It is not unusual, for example, for blues to be spotted feeding on the surface during dusk and dawn hours. You can cast to these fish with light tackle. From time to time, the big blues begin to chase bunker deep inside the north shore harbors and if and when this occurs, the action can be spectacular. Weather and wind do not usually affect this sheltered fishing. Again, as with most of the action during the "dog days," the best fishing will be during the early morning hours and at night when the shallow water is at its coolest temperature.

IF YOU CAN'T FIND FISH IN HOT WEATHER, you may want some food for thought to make up for the table fare that isn't there. If so, then think about this. We hear a lot these days about how auto manufacturers are attempting to build more fuel-efficient cars. Well, the makers of marine engines have been at that task for more than two decades. In the 1950s, companies found

ways to "down-size" outboards with more streamlined designs, lighter metal alloys, and other design improvements. This shift to more fuel efficient outboards is extremely important to the eight million owners of outboard engines. Here's how the manufacturers were able to make the engines more fuel-efficient. First, the block and other critical metal areas are made of die-cast aluminum. The engines are lighter and this—especially for the bigger models—saves fuel. Second, exhaust systems were changed to get more efficient operation and better performance. Third, there have been improvements in carburetion so that today's engines are fitted with carburetors that are a better match and are more fuel-efficient. Fourth, the modern outboard features a breaker-less ignition. This means better starts and fewer misfirings. The result is still better fuel economy. Fifth, better propellers made of stainless steel and coated with Teflon give an improved fuel-used to distance-traveled ratio.

ENGINES IN THE FUTURE. I know that manufacturers are researching even more ways to make the outboard engine, as well as inboards and inboard/outboards for that matter, better and more efficient. One of the items on the drawing board is an engine that uses a fuel mixture with twenty percent alcohol. These changes will produce a product that has other advantages besides fuel economy. I've been using a 1979 outboard with a rated horsepower of twenty-five. I am amazed at how light it is and how durable. It starts fast, runs smooth, and the fuel economy is fantastic. I have it on a sixteen foot aluminum boat and although I have run all around Peconic several times, took a trip to Orient Point, I am only now halfway through my second tank of gas. The same sized model from the early 1960s drank gas at about twice the rate, I would have to say, based upon my best recollections.

OCEAN SCIENCE LAB HOPING TO GET FUNDING. The New York Ocean Science Lab at Montauk is hoping to get Federal, State, local, or private funding for marine science programs to help keep them going in the face of drastic financial cutbacks that have occurred during the last decade. A recent application to Cornell University for the development of a fish-processing plant to mince under-used species. There sure seems to be a lot of commercial interest out east.

APPOINTED TO THE BLUEFISH SUB-PANEL. It may be of interest to our readers to know that I was recently appointed by Mr. Bryson, Director of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Council to the sub-panel on bluefish. Thanks to your support, the Council set to the task of developing the management plan for blues and as a member of the sub-panel that advises the Mid-Atlantic Council, I'll do my best to make sure that the primary goals of sport fishermen concerning bluefish are not forgotten. I'll keep you posted through this column and Pass It On.

DOORMAT TIME

(Continued from page 17.)

worth the effort—unless you're really dedicated. The balance of the month still provides many opportunities to anglers working rough bottoms and wrecks to the west, with a few doormats being taken in offshore waters well into October.

Getting a shot at the Montauk doormats isn't much of a problem these days. There are both half and full day party boats that work even the difficult drifting area on the south side. Charter boats are glad to book parties for this special fishing, and private boats of every description are there on both tides. Obviously, this is no place for small boats on rough days, but they usually aren't missing anything when the weather isn't right in any case. Montauk doormat fishing is a fair weather sport which peaks at the calmest time of the year—and provides even casual fluke fishermen, like myself, with the opportunity to catch the doormat of their dreams.

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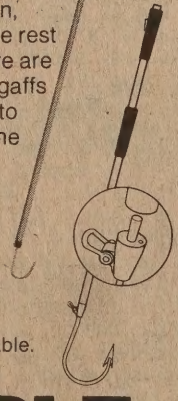

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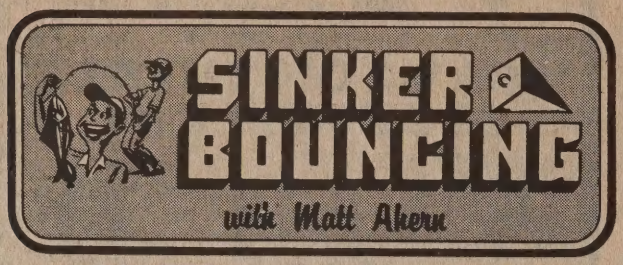
If I left food on the supper plate as a youngster, I was told I had eyes bigger than my stomach. I guess in some respects I haven't entirely gotten away from that. But now instead of heaping on the meat and potatoes, it is the practice of assigning myself heaps of work, which, after the first blush of inspiration has faded, does indeed become sticky. For instance, take this series of articles as an example. Just how I'm going



PORTRAIT OF A FISHERMAN

★ PART TWO ★

to compress nearly sixty years of bottom fishing into them has me climbing the walls. What to include and what to omit is only part of it. And I must not overlook Mr. Cisar's request for information on how to catch more and bigger fish, which is actually the reason for this series of articles.

I am plagued by self-doubt as I sit before this typewriter. Is my memory for dates, those excellent fishing areas, those incredible fishing companions—plus all those events which are the groundwork for such an effort—are all these remembrances as true and accurate as they might be? So far, total recall has been hitting on all eight. I know this is so because when doubts arise, all that's necessary is to check back through my numerous record books and diaries for verification.

But those records and diaries relate nothing of my feelings at the time of actual happening. These emotions have dwelled deep within me for over a half century. Transcribing such feelings at their time of occurrence would have been impossible, for I was unaware of their existence. The inner person had yet to become the sounding board it is today.

It was the thinking, and the thoughts, the concentration, the churning and the mixing, the boiling and the steeping over all those long years which have given proper perspective, respect, and value to them. And now it is mostly fear of those sentiments getting away from me and possibly turning this entire project into so much sentimental mush that has me concerned.

But all I can do is plug away, avoiding the subtle entrapments of pitfalls as best I can, hoping for forgiveness should I stumble along my chosen path, and, hopefully, say what I wish to without gilding the lily in any manner, shape, or form.

Readers who have been following this column for any length of time know much of my fishing life has been spent aboard party boats...probably as much as two-thirds of it. It was my first love and continues to be so. Not that I don't enjoy inshore fishing—perish the thought! I'll fish for flounder or any bay fish at the drop of a hat; but if I had my druthers, I'd much prefer to spend my time offshore on the ever-restless ocean.

The only reason I love party boat fishing more than I do bay fishing, surf fishing, or whatever, is because I was raised among party boat fishermen. As Donald Henderson Clark's Louis Barretti said: "I'd probably have been a Boy Scout if I'd been born in a Boy Scout neighborhood."

As mentioned in Part One, I'd had an intense interest in party boats long before I ever fished aboard one. The fickle fishing gods certainly smiled the day I moved into a Brooklyn neighborhood in which party boat fishing was a way of life.

I well remember that first party boat venture, which was a trip for ling—as it has been for so many others before and after me. The date: early May, 1927—and that's certainly going back a long way. The party boat which started it all was the converted World War I ex-subchaser Fidus out of Canarsie. My tackle consisted of a borrowed handline and with it I easily filled a butter tub with large, pot-bellied ling.

I was hooked on party boat fishing, but I also became over-confident. I found it so easy to catch those ling, I wondered what all the fuss was about. Why all the far-into-the-night round-table discussions on baits, hooks, rigs, etc.? Why all a guy needed to do was put bait on bottom and pull in those fish. Little did I know of the trials and tribulations that awaited me.

As I look back on those days, I often wonder how I managed to get along in school. My school work must surely have suffered, for all I had on my mind was the amount of days which must pass for me to again get out there and catch more of those ling. Especially do I recall the passing of those intervening lead-footed days before I could make my second trip. That was one long, drawn-out week let me tell you. And the peculiar thing is that, more than a half-century later, I still find the waiting time till the next trip just as lead-footed and disheartening.

I did have some consolation those days, though. In the evenings I would search out those neighborhood master fishermen of my acquaintance and listen in on their discussions, which seemed always of high order and much beyond my understanding. But this didn't trouble me in the least, for I hoarded every spoken word as if it were Holy Writ.

There was no question I was receiving an education in the fine points of fishing. But it was schooling which actually had little substance. Its frailty lay in the fact that my slowly growing ant hill of knowledge was based on a foundation of sand.

What did it matter if I knew, or thought I knew, the fine points of blackfishing, let's say, if I lacked the opportunity to catch them? I was to find that there was a vast difference between talking a good line and the actual doing. Ling fishing was a snap, for I soon discovered anyone could catch greedy old pot-belly; but to catch those blackfish—ah! There lay the rub.

But anyway, I kept at it, fishing when I could, reading and digesting what was available at the time, learning to separate the wheat from the chaff, annoying those who knew the answers, and studying why and how as it pertained to the fish of interest.

I racked up as many trips as possible, kept my records religiously, and began to pay more attention to my surroundings while aboard those party boats. I was intrigued by party boat mates, for here were fishermen who could not only fish every day of the week, but were being paid for doing so. Now there certainly was a job which deserved a little looking into.

I continued to fish aboard the Fidus for several months until someone told me of the fish-catching ability of the Rose R II...and aboard her I fished for many years. I can say in all truth that these were my grandest fishing years. Not that I didn't try other party boats, for this was part of my learning. I fished aboard every one in Canarsie and then I gave Sheepshead Bay a whirl.

I tried Sheepshead's early boats, the late-morning boats, the afternoon boats, the popular overnight trips to Atlantic City for those truly gigantic sea bass—I'm sure I tried them all. I had done what I had been advised to do, but always I returned to the Rose R II, for here I had found a home. I figured it was now time to settle down and learn the ropes.

It seemed to me at the time that a certain type of old-timer frequented the Rose R II. They were, I felt, my kind of fishermen. I found few of similar character aboard other boats. These particular old-timers were dedicated fishermen, steeped in fish knowledge which came only through years of association with the game, and, most important to a knee-pants kid, they were kind—no end kind.

These fishermen cheerfully took me under their wings and unselfishly shared their hard-gained knowledge. They gave me many rods, wooden sidewinder

(Continued on page 13.)

FRED'S FISH FACTS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE MALE SEA CATFISH CARRIES THE FEMALE'S EGGS IN HIS MOUTH UNTIL THEY HATCH... IF THEY GET IN TROUBLE HE LETS THEM SWIM BACK IN.

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CRABS ARE VERY MOBILE AND CAN MOVE A MILE A DAY BETWEEN OCEAN AND BAY WHEN TRIGGERED BY TIDES, WATER SALINITY, TEMPERATURE ETC. AND WLL BECOME INACTIVE FOR DAYS AT A TIME. ALL FRUSTRATED SPORT CRABBERS CAN DO IS KEEP TRYING.

GROWTH RATES OF FISH VARY WITH SPECIES AND AREA. A 4 LB. SMALLMOUTH BASS IN THE NORTH COULD BE 12-14 YEARS OLD. A 4 LB. LARGEMOUTH IN THE SOUTH COULD BE AS YOUNG AS 3 YRS. OLD.

WHEN A FEMALE OCTOPUS HAS LAID HER EGGS SHE STOPS EATING AND SOON DIES. EXPERIMENTAL SURGERY ON POST EGG-LAYING FEMALES TO REMOVE THEIR SEX GLANDS WAS SO SUCCESSFUL THAT DE-SEXED FEMALES, INSTEAD OF STARVING, DOUBLED THEIR WEIGHT AND LIFE SPAN.

KINGFISH, NORTHERN WHITING, MAKE GOOD TANK FISH AND EAT ANY THING. THEY HAVE THE ABILITY TO CHANGE COLORS, THEIR BASIC COLORS BEING BLACK, BROWN AND WHITE.

BABY SHARKS ARE IN DANGER OF ATTACK BY BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHILE STILL IN THEIR MOTHER'S WOMB. NO WONDER THEY ARE SO TOUGH AND MEAN!

SCUP SAVE THE DAY!

When summer comes, surfcasting usually goes. For the most part, daytime fishing comes to a standstill for every species but one: the porgy. If not for porgies, die-hard shore-bound anglers would have to resort to a boat, or worse—give up fishing temporarily for some other sport. But every July and August, summer scup, immune to sweltering heat and oppressive water temperatures, save the day for fishermen on the beaches of Long Island Sound and the piers, banks, and bridges in the Peconics and Gardiner's Bay.

Most of the porgies at this time of year will be on the small side, ranging from a half-pound sand scup to one pound bay fish; but this is not important. On light tackle, these iridescent, mother-of-pearl panfish put up a surprising fight, darting every which way like freshwater bluegills, all the way to the angler's bucket. And sometimes a humpback will be among them—a one-and-a-half to two pound fish that can strain a light rod to its capacity.

Of course, the lighter you can go, the better; but tackle requirements must also match the fishing conditions. While a five foot ultra-light rod and reel with four to six pound test may be perfect for fishing from the mouth of a creek or a quiet bay inlet, unfortunately, larger equipment is often necessary—perhaps a seven to nine foot spinning rod and reel with lines from fifteen to twenty pound test, when fishing from a beach, jetty, or bridge. There are simply too many obstructions for light tackle to withstand on the mussel-strewn, seaweed-covered, rock-scattered bottom of Long Island Sound. Similarly, when fishing from a bridge's high elevation, the monofilament must not only be strong enough to hook and play a porgy, but also to hoist it out of the water.

In all cases, nonetheless, the rig remains essentially the same. In fact, I often catch two to three pound humpbacks in the fall from a boat with the same hooks and leaders I use for sand porgies in the summer. Number one Beaks or Claws with sliced shanks on twelve inch leaders of thirty pound test are the most commonly used hooks for porgies of all sizes. When fishing in places with few obstructions on the bottom, the hooks can be connected directly to the lightest line on a dropper loop and tied in tandem. An end loop for the sinker with the hooks two or three inches above, and the rig is complete. When the terrain is rough, however, it is better to connect the hooks and sinker to a twelve or eighteen inch leader of thirty pound test, tying the monofilament and leader to a barrel swivel with improved clinch knots. If snags occur or you encounter seaweed on the hooks, raise the hooks to six inches above the sinker, or convert to a high-low rig on two droppers. Put the bottom hook about four inches above the sinker, and then shorten the other snell to eight inches, and tie it in about ten inches above the first. This should clear the debris while maintaining both hooks within the scup's feeding zone. Sinker weight will vary, of course, from a couple of split shots on an ultra-light rod to three ounce banks on the Sound. Sometimes, when the fishing is slow, I will resort to a sinker that is slightly lighter than normal. This allows the baited rig to drag along the bottom, and many times porgies will take such a bait on the run when a stationary bait does not work.

Although humpback porgies will go for a variety of baits, including squid, clams, worms, mussels, and even small crustaceans, small porgies generally prefer worms. You may use sand worms, which are the most popular on Long Island Sound, as well as in the northeastern bays, or bloodworms, or even earthworms. Flounders are not the only bottom fish that will take a freshwater worm. Cut any of these into small pieces, enough to cover the small shank and eye of the hook with just a trace dangling below. The barbs on the shank will secure the worm and prevent it from sliding down onto the bend of the hook. Do not be concerned about shredded, half-eaten worms—small porgies relish them as much as fresh worms. When the scup are biting, I can frequently take three fish on the same piece of worm.

Wherever possible, chumming will help to attract porgies. Bring along some mussels or clams and put them in a chum pot, which can be lowered from a bridge, or the up-current side of a pier or jetty, wherever currents are not too fast, and deep water is nearby. At many places, mussels can be gathered on the outgoing tide. A simpler, though less effective method of chumming is to crush the mussels or clams into tiny bits and scatter them on the up-current side of your baited rig. Repeat this at regular intervals, even after you get hits.

Make your cast to a likely spot, such as the entrance to an inlet between a bay and a creek or harbor, or to a mussel bed or boulder-strewn area on the Sound, or from the end of a jetty or the down-current side of a bridge. Then tighten the slack and wait a minute. If nothing happens, reel in slowly a few turns, and pause again. Usually the fish will hit the bait as soon as the rig settles again. If you arrive at dawn in mid-summer, you will probably get hits immediately. In the day, however, you may have to explore other parts of the area you selected before some action occurs. For example, closer to shore from a jetty, or on the back bay side of an inlet, or near another cluster of rocks off a

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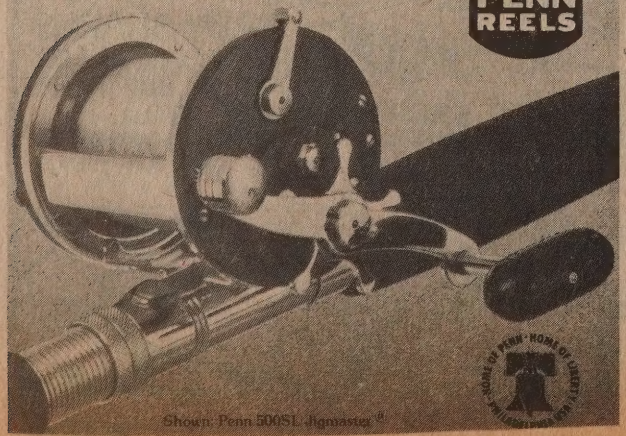

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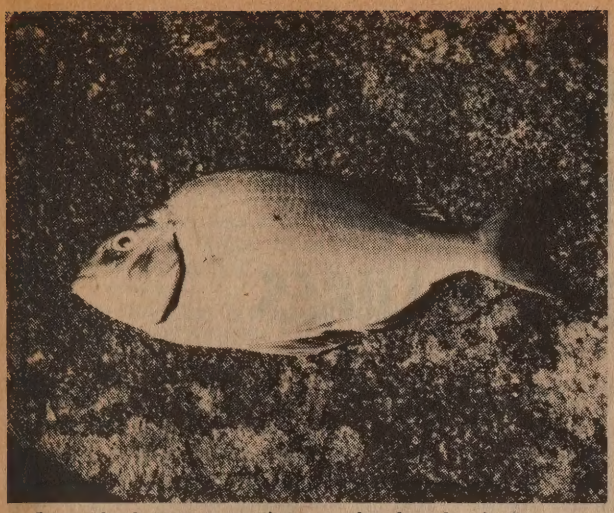


Scup, also known as porgies, can often be taken in the surf.

beach. Sooner or later, you will find the fish, and you will then have plenty of action and excellent results if your reflexes are quick. Porgies have small, pointy mouths and make quick stabs at the bait. If the rapid pecks are not followed by a pick-up—then, for sure, it is time to reel in and put on more worms. Once you develop a feel for timing the strike at just the right moment with a short lift of the rod, you will rarely lose any fish.

Although high northerly winds and foul weather are almost non-existent during the summer, there are endless rainy days that make the water roily and unclear on Long Island Sound. In Peconic Bay and especially Gardiner's Bay, offshore winds frequently tear up the bottom, dislodging long strings of seaweed and murky brown sediment. The best fishing hours are at dawn, but porgies can be taken in the middle of a hot day, too. I find the incoming tide best when fishing from a beach on the Sound during the day because the water is slightly deeper nearby and cooler as well. At the jetties on Long Island Sound, however, the outgoing tide is just as good because you are already fishing in deep water. Either tide can be fished, as well, at the bay inlets, as long as the water is moving.

Some places on Long Island Sound where I have caught innumerable porgies over the years, are off the beaches between Port Jefferson and Wading River—an area scattered with many boulders and mussel beds. Wildwood State Park, just east of this area, is also excellent. The tip of Shoreham's west jetty (or any other inlet on the Sound) will put you in deep water immediately. The west jetties of north shore inlets usually have sandbars and dropoffs within casting distance, a result of the flood tide; and the east jetties are marked by deep channels. Consequently, either side can be productive. At Peconic Bay, all the popular weakfishing surf spots also hold schools of porgies: the rocky outcropping on the northwest side of the Shinnecock Canal, Sebonac Neck's and Towd Point's channel mouths; the west side of Jessup's Neck, and the South Ferry area between North Haven and Shelter Island. Further east along the south fork, the bridge and town dock at Sag Harbor are worth a try, as is the east jetty at Maidstone Beach Park, which marks the entrance to Three Mile Harbor from Gardiner's Bay, the docks facing the harbor, and the inlet at Hog Creek Point in Springs. On the north fork, the Greenport jetty, and the town docks here are good; as is the south side of Orient Point.

Many places may be restricted in the summer, but for a few dollars you may be allowed to park at some and fish all day. Considering the price of most fishing trips today, it is worth it. The next time summer surfcasting gets you down, pick up a dozen worms and suitable tackle, head to one of the spots mentioned on the north side, and watch the scup save your day.

SINKER BOUNCING:
PORTRAIT OF A FISHERMAN

(Continued from page 10.)

reels, hooks, sinkers, heavy winter clothing for codfishing, even going so far as to share their lunch, or to bring extra, telling their wives it was for "that kid with the hollow legs." Is is any wonder I cherish and love their memory?

And I learned. It was slow going, no question about that, but I was an enthusiastic pupil.

It is common knowledge that most boys interested in sports have an idol. Today it might be a Pete Rose, a Reggie Jackson, or a Muhammad Ali—whatever the sport of interest, a boy will find someone to look up to. My idol in the long ago was the skipper of the Rose R II: Captain Dick Persson.

It was easy for me to feel that way. I could give many examples of why this was so; but one is all that's needed to put the point across.

There were times when I just couldn't get that dollar fare together, which meant no fishing that week. After this sad state of affairs happened several times, Captain Dick discreetly took me aside and inquired as to why. After I related my tale of woe, I was told not to worry, for if I didn't have the needed fare, I was to come aboard anyway. What more could a fish-happy fourteen or fifteen-year-old kid want to hear than that?

This bucked me no end and I began to feel as if I were one of the crew, a man among men, and because of that, I began to make myself useful around the boat: cutting bait, delivering it around to the passengers, scrubbing down on the way in, etc.—all those things which would show my appreciation. I recall few boats those days had anchor winches and ours was pulled by hand, but this labor I was forbidden until I "had put on more muscle."

But even with the enjoyment of this "work," it was the master fishermen on board who truly fascinated me. How they managed to catch fish when others on board could only stand by in silent frustration, I didn't know; how they managed to win pools with such regularity, amazed me. And why they took such an interest in showing me how it was done, I can't for the life of me tell you—but they did.

I know there were many times when these fishermen lay aside their rods, checked how I was doing, and then took time out to show me the error of my ways. Many of these great fishermen I have written about before and I won't bore you by repeating their kindness. My main concern with these articles is to answer that letter of Mr. Cisar's on the catching of more and bigger fish.

So, with that in mind, I'll skip those years of party boat mating days, the exquisite thrill of being allowed to take over the helm of the Rose R II for the first time as a seventeen-year-old and actually finding fish...all that horn tooting have I tried to keep at a minimum, horn tooting which I know means little to Mr. Cisar and others interested in the catching of their own fish.

So, next week we'll get into what I learned from these great fishermen on how to catch those party boat fish of interest—from cod to fluke. If you are expecting to find "secrets," I'm afraid you will be disappointed. But if you wish to read about common sense methods used to catch those fish, I'll try not to be disappointing.

Blue Water Fishing

by Pete Barrett

Part Two: TROLLING LURES

Selecting the lure or bait for offshore fishing is one of the most important aspects of blue water angling. Up until a few years ago, the choices for fishermen were limited to a few baits like mullet, balao, eels and strip baits cut from mackerel or other small tunas. Today the picture takes in a much wider view, and there have been several significant changes—all for the better—as an ever-increasing number of artificial trolling lures gain in popularity.

Rigging baits has been covered in past issues of The Fisherman and there are other reference books showing exactly how to rig the natural baits, so we won't cover them in detail here. Penn Reels sells a handy instruction book titled, "How To Rig Bait For Trolling," at $2.95 in most tackle shops or directly from Penn. "Successful Ocean Gamefishing," by Frank Moss and published by International Marine Publishers, also goes into detail on several baits.

Natural baits when rigged correctly are often hard to beat. They do catch fish and they do it well; yet they have a few shortcomings that make it hard for the beginning offshore angler to get off to a good start. Quality may not be consistent, you must keep the baits frozen—then keep them refrigerated after you rig them, and trolling speeds must be on the slower side to avoid tearing the bait to pieces. A single fish will usually ruin the bait at the strike, whether you succeed in boating the fish or not; so you must rig a sufficient number of baits to carry you through the day.

If this sounds like I am down on natural baits—you are wrong. There are days when the naturals may out-catch the newer artificials, but those days seem to be few and far between.

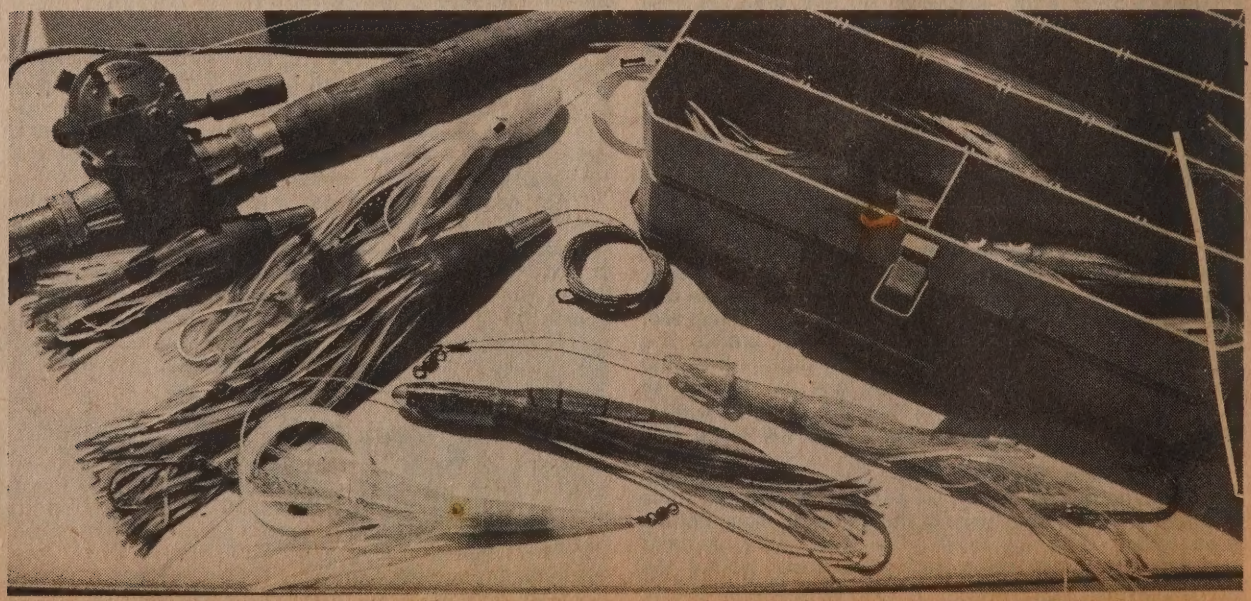
I once overheard a Brielle charter skipper say, "I'd never use those damn fake lures. No fish in his right mind would light up over one of those!" Two years later that same man rarely ever used the naturals anymore.

"It's the old story of 'try it, you'll like it'!" Once you spend a day with a set of good lures, the advantages are readily apparent. They are durable. I have a Spider Green Machine that has scored on several dozen yellowfin and is still going strong. If you buy them pre-rigged there is no fuss over tying up baits and worrying over knots and haywire twists. They are repeatable. It often seems that every natural swims just a little different than another natural, yet most artificials of equal manufacture, size and weight will usually track and perform the same.

You can change both the size and color of the presentation with the fake baits. There are times when tunas or marlin seem to prefer a dark lure over a bright lure, or a lure with some action over a straight streaming lure; a bubbler over a skipping bait; a short skirt over a long skirt. The varieties of lures is very wide.

Probably the most important aspect of trolling with the artificial baits is the ability to troll at much higher trolling speeds. Since they are so durable, the baits won't tear apart. You can cover considerably more water, often three or four times the area at these higher trolling speeds which range from over five to fifteen knots or more, and thereby place your lures in front of more fish. The chances of hookups are greatly increased. You will burn more fuel, but your total number of fish per gallon should increase so you are getting more fish per each gallon of fuel burned.

Offshore lures are typified by the Green Machines, a nickname for most any green trolling lure with a long skirt and red beads along the inside of the leader under the skirt. Companies like Spider, Sevenstrand and Blue Water Tackle have popularized the now famous lures. New nicknames are now popping up for other colors like



A variety of offshore trolling lures in several sizes, weights and colors will cover most trolling conditions.

purple perils, big reds, and blue bitch; but the lures are similar—just with different colors.

There are several types of head styles and swimming actions to choose from. The Jet Lures are drilled with a series of holes that force water through the head, causing a bubbling action. The Acetta Jelly Jet uses a plastic head with holes, while Mold Craft uses a bubbler head that can be slid onto the leader ahead of any lure to create a large stream of bubbles. The Spider Malolo has fluted sides that causes a stream of bubbles. All these lures work beautifully in the wake—some streaming bubbles for fifteen to twenty feet behind the lure.

Some lures use a cupped head like the Sevenstrand Kona beads and Knuckle head, the Boone Ballyhoo, and others, like the Spider Ahi, have a scooped chrome head.

There are other lures with little apparent action, relying more on the flash of beads and skirts to fool a fish into striking. The most realistic of these are the Sevenstrand Clone series lures and the Boone Striker Sea Minnow. Others like the Mai Tai Teezil, Acetta Jelly Belly and Spider Ono are also good lures.

Many come in different sizes and weights, so you should be able to match the prevalent bait in whatever area you fish. The smaller lures are also good catchers of the smaller tuna clan. Skipjack, false albacore and bonito are suckers for a small plastic skirted lure, like a miniature green machine.

As a general rule (which means it can always be broken), marlin seem to prefer lures with more action, while the tunas will most often look at lures that stream straight on. I can cite examples myself to disprove that statement, but as a guide it can be helpful to selecting the baits you will troll.

Another new twist to the scene of offshore lures are the heavyweight baits now offered by Sevenstrand: the Deep Clones range in weight from sixteen ounces to a bomb of a lure going at thirty-two ounces. I haven't yet had the chance to fish these lures, but plan to this coming season and have heard good reports from others who have already given them a try. John Duraski, a Fisherman reader who fishes Atlantic City and Montauk, had glowing reports of the deep-running lures for yellowfin tuna and long-finned albacore. Time will tell as more anglers troll them.

COMBO BAITS:

George Agnew of Acetta Lures set me to thinking with a note last year about how well his Jelly Belly lures were catching when draped with a strip of bait added to the hook. I used the strips many times in Florida and the Bahamas, but had overlooked them off our coast. Needless to say, the strips work very well and the combination of natural smell from the strip bait and the action and flash of the lure make for a deadly offering that many fish can't ignore.

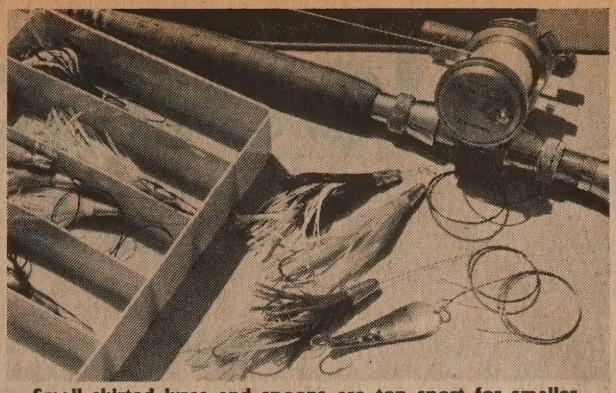
OTHER LURES:

All offshore lures aren't the larger-skirted type. Spoons like the Reflecto, Clark, and Barracuda are another alternative. They are most often used for the smaller species. Cedar plugs are still popular in some areas, available either handmade or from Sea Wolf Tackle. Many anglers still use and swear by the traditional style feather lures. They do work, although the smaller skirts are now invading the feather domain.

LEADERS:

The choice of leader material is limited to three types: monofilament, braided cable, or single strand wire. In our area, the most often used leaders are of mono or cable, and there are pros and cons of both. Cable is more durable and doesn't kink, but it is heavy and can limit the action of the lure. It can also enhance the action of some lures. Cable is more visible in the water.

Mono is nearly invisible—a quality marlin fishermen like—but it does stretch and when stretching the sleeves that crimp the knots can come loose. It is rare that this ever happens but, again, some anglers place great importance on this fact. I've seen a few leaders give under this pressure; but in every case I believe the crimps were bad, not the mono. The best quality



Small skirted lures and spoons are top sport for smaller tuna on 12-lb. tackle.

You can make your own lures to match special conditions. If you are inexperienced, stick to ready-made lures.

offshore lures are crimped with the Nico-Press sleeves. The Sevenstrand and Berkeley sleeves are nearly as good and offer the advantage of an inexpensive crimping tool to make the crimps.

HOOKS:

Stainless, nickel-plated or cadmium-plated, the hooks should be sharpened to a knife edge. I prefer triangulating the hook on a small grinding wheel and then touching it up with a Red Devil Paint Scraper file (or any file) until the edge is perfect. A small piece of latex tube will cover the point and protect it while the lure is not in use. The hook should not have an offset to it or it will tend to spin the wake.

RIGGING YOUR OWN:

Fishermen are ever the great tinkerers and the blue water fisherman is not to be left out.

Many tackle shops are now stocking the components to complete an offshore lure. They have skirts in various colors, leader material (crimps and tools), and the other necessary beads, hooks and weights. If you plan to make your own lures, experiment first by making up a lure two or three times over to practice with the crimps and layout of the lure. If you don't do it well, you can lose a big fish. In general, the best bet is to purchase the ready made lures as they come from the manufacturer. You are then sure that the lure has been constructed properly.

COLORS:

A basic color section for the offshore artificials should include green, purple, blue and yellow as the primary colors! Red, pink and white can also be good at times. The very realistic Clones and Boone strikers are available in blends of color that nearly match actual baitfish to perfection.

HOW GOOD ARE THEY:

Artificials are winning tournaments and setting records. A Mold Craft squid lure captured the $220,000 first prize in a Texas tournament; the largest blue marlin weighed in for Florida was on an artificial, and some tournaments—like the Ocean City Marlin Open—see more fish on lures than on bait. They do catch.

Next week we'll talk about trolling stragegy, where to fish and how to score on tuna and billfish.

Doormat Time

by Al Ristori

There isn't much to be said for most fishing during the dog days of summer, but when it comes to doormat fluke this is the time to do it. Most migratory species bite best during spring and fall migrations, with the finest fishing occurring as fall storms send them on a feeding spree before heading south for a winter of relative inactivity. On the other hand, the summer flounder bunches up and starts leaving Long Island waters even before Labor Day—and the biggest fish really only bite well for a couple of months.

If you want to catch small fluke, you'll probably do well enough from the Jersey coast to Shinnecock in the period from late May through July. However, it's not until July that many doormats show up in the catches—and bigger fluke become much more common in August. At the east end, the situation is somewhat different. There really isn't any worthwhile fluke fishing until late June, but fair numbers of good sized flatfish are taken right from the beginning. Last year, Lou Rosado had some of the most impressive hauls of doormats taken during the entire season while drifting only minutes from the inlet at Montauk in mid-July. Big fluke are taken almost every day during July and August on the east side of Shagwong Reef, and the various rips between Montauk Point and Block Island are liable to produce doormats at any time during the summer.

Nevertheless, my choice for doormats is the period from mid-August through the first week or so in September at Montauk. Even though it's too early for other fish to start migrating, the doormats move out of summering areas in Gardiner's Bay and Block Island Sound and feed greedily in the rips off the Point and along the south side. It's very picky fishing at times, but if it's a doormat you're interested in—this is the time and place to make your big effort.

The author with a 13½ pound doormat taken on Judd York's boat fishing on the south side of Montauk Point.

I don't pretend to be an expert at fluke fishing, and if you could get a look at my daily fishing records when I was growing up on Long Island you'd be sure that I can't even be accused of being a lucky fisherman when it comes to big fluke. During my high school and college years I caught hundreds of fluke inshore and offshore of both Jones and Fire Island Inlets without ever lucking into one of over three and a half pounds. Granted, I didn't know much about the special techniques used to catch larger fluke in those areas—but it's still hard to believe that anyone could catch as many fluke as I did in the mid to late fifties without coming across even a single medium sized specimen.

The sixties didn't provide very good fluke fishing for any sized fish, but there were a few anglers who were taking big fluke from the Montauk rips even then. As the fluke started to come back, fishing broke open there in the early seventies and reached a peak several years ago. Though fishing for smaller fluke has been excellent off the north Jersey coast and in the New York Bight area at times during the past few years, Montauk fluking has been getting progressively more difficult. Large catches are no longer the rule, but your chances of catching the fluke of a lifetime are still good.

What am I talking about when I refer to a doormat fluke? Specifically, I'm referring to a fluke of ten pounds or more—though I'll admit to being happy with even five pounders. It took me a while during the early seventies to work up to my first ten pounder, but it actually got to be fairly routine a few years later. Though I've never been more than a casual and occasional fluke fisherman, those who concentrated on them in the mid-seventies made some incredible catches. I remember one year when I asked Judd York and Frank Lovello how many fluke over ten pounds they'd caught up to that point—and they replied with a figure in the fifties. And that was before they stopped counting them!

I don't know if anyone is catching such quantities now, but a mere ten pounder still won't raise many eyebrows at Montauk. Therefore, if you've never caught a real doormat, this is the place to do it. Best of all you can make the effort while the kids are still out of school and weather conditions are ideal.

The "secret" to catching doormat fluke at Montauk really isn't that much different from catching them elsewhere. The important point to remember is that big fluke usually segregate themselves from smaller fish and adopt a different life style. The reason I never lucked into a big fluke during the sixties was that I was invariably fishing on sand and mud bottoms. You have to be lucky to catch doormats on such bottoms. The big fish prefer mussel beds, rocks, wrecks and other rough bottoms with plenty of cover. They're looking for squid and relatively large bait fish and will go "where the action is." They also tend to prefer deeper water—often sixty to seventy feet.

Big baits attract big fish, though they don't necessarily discourage smaller ones. In the heyday of Montauk fluking we used mostly small (about six to eight inches) whole squid, with a double hook rig. Large smelt were also good, and were often used in

conjunction with a whole squid or with long strips from larger squid. For some reason, these traditional doormat baits don't seem to be working as well lately. Fish strips are a more consistent producer—and you can take your pick of species as to which is best.

Fluke belly is the usual favorite among strip baits. Of course, by fluke belly I'm referring to the white underside of the fluke. I want to make that clear because I know of one kid who didn't interpret that phrase correctly. Back in the fifties he read in Frank Keating's "Long Island Press" column that some anglers in Fire Island Inlet were doing very well with fluke bellies. On his next trip the novice angler ran out of killies and proceeded to show his friend just how sharp he was by slitting open the body cavity of one of his fluke and impaling that little stomach on the hook. It was no great surprise to him that he caught a couple more small fluke on "fluke belly", but he really wasn't all that impressed with the odd looking bait. My reputation as an outdoor writer prevents me from acknowledging who that "stupid" kid was!

Just because most everyone cuts long strips from the white side of the fluke and ignores the other side doesn't mean that's the proper thing to do. I use both sides and have no real preference. Indeed, the dark side sometimes produces more and bigger fish. Sea robins also make very good fluke bait, particularly the big colorful specimens. While most anglers cut belly or side strips and fish them with the skin on, one of the first pros to work the deep waters on the south side of the Point would also skin the strips—fishing only the meat. Dogfish strips also make a fine bait when skinned. That meat stays on almost as well without skin as most other fish baits do with skin.

Several summers ago I was given some fresh bunker and really didn't have any idea what I was going to do with it. It was mid-August and I was working the Midway Rips one Sunday afternoon when I decided to try stripping it for fluke bait. Frozen bunker would probably never stay on and even very fresh bunker is hardly a sturdy bait when stripped, but I guarantee you that the fluke that day couldn't have appreciated anything more than they did those oily strips. Unfortunately, there were also a few dogfish around and they liked them just as well.

Since sand eels have become the dominant form of natural bait in recent years, it only stands to reason that they will catch fluke. Indeed, this is the only small bait that I've seen catch large fluke with some consistency. I remember sneaking out to Montauk just before my daughter was born in early September three years ago—and then being embarrassed by some friends from Atlantic Beach who were fishing with sand eels. There had been the usual big catches on Labor Day weekend and I just couldn't resist getting a shot at a doormat before it was all over. However, no one was doing much by the time I got out to the south shore grounds—that is, until my friends came in from offshore with their sand eels and proceeded to catch large (if not "doormat") fluke every drift. With my traditional squid and smelt baits I could count my catch on one hand—though one tipped the scales at fifteen and a half pounds.

In order to fish rough bottom you'll need plenty of sinkers of various sizes. Often you can get by with light sinkers on the usual twenty pound test line, but a wind against tide situation can "float" anything lighter than a sashweight at times. Surprisingly, doormat fluke sometimes bite fairly well under those conditions—if you can hold bottom. On one such occasion, I had to break out the wire line rods in order to hold. Your best bet is to carry a variety of tackle to suit the conditions you might encounter. A light boat rod and small conventional reel is fine for normal circumstances, but you'll want a heavier stick when twelve or sixteen ounces of sinker may be required. I prefer a five and a half to five foot eight musky rod with a large baitcasting reel. The outfit is light to handle, but the rod is stiff enough to lift heavy sinkers and still provide enough backbone with which to set a hook.

Despite the rough bottom, you won't hang up that much. Even when you do, the rig can almost always be retrieved by running the boat back up ahead of the snag and pulling it free. The usual terminal rig involves a single hook of about 5/0 size with a trebel "stinger" hook set about four to six inches astern of it. That's a good rig for the small squid as the treble can be set in the head. Even big fluke often just clip off the squid head and leave the body. It's been my experience that the body without the head is useless as a bait. I've never believed in spinners and other attractors for fluke, but Lou Rosado proved their effectiveness at times last July by loading up on doormats while boats around him without spinners couldn't catch a fish.

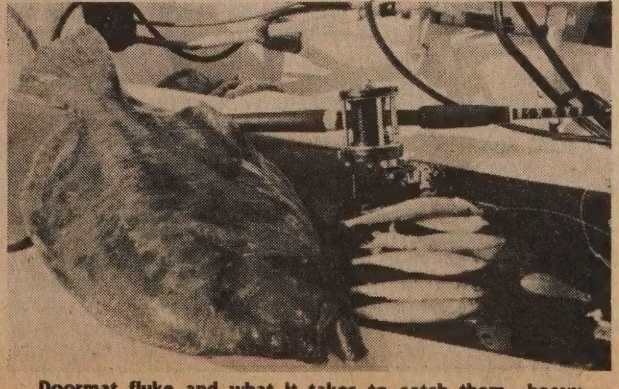
If you can get a small live bait, don't hesitate to try it. A single hook rig will do, and such baits are most effective when the tide is slow. Charlie Nappi's world record twenty two pound, seven ounce Montauk fluke was taken on a live snapper bluefish in deep water along the south side.

Generally, you'll find more fish in the rips from the Point to Midway in August—though you may have to fish through a lot of average-sized fish to get to a doormat. Don't waste a lot of time in one rip if it isn't producing, but also don't forget to try it again on a different tidal stage or direction if other areas don't produce. Frequently a rip will break wide open at a certain portion of the tide after not producing a thing earlier. This is quite common when the tides are very strong around the full moon. The best action is then likely to occur at the beginning and ends of the tide. Most fluke will be found just before the top of the rip, but a few more may be on the backside. A heavily weighted buoy is of great help in this fishing, as it's hard to judge just how your drift is going without something to fix on. Be sure to use a double float on your buoy or the strong currents may drag it right under.

The south side used to produce fairly good fishing even in mid-July just a few years ago, but lately it's been a matter of hitting big fluke there as they move out. As the fish seem to only pause in this area, it may be dead one day and red hot the next. The important factor is to work varying depths from about fifty to seventy feet and be prepared to buoy any spot that produces. The area south of the Point west to Kings is usually best, but it's also worth trying off the Tearhouse and Ditch Plains. The bottom isn't as rough in the latter areas, but there are some good patches. It's often worthwhile to drift in the vicinity of lobster pots. Talking about lobster pots, that's something you'll have to watch as you drift off the south side. They're no trouble to spot around slack water, but the buoys will be low to the water or even drawn under in a strong tide. Keep glancing ahead of your drift and give yourself time to get the lines up before getting snagged.

Fluke don't disappear from the Montauk area after the first or second week in September, but they have usually thinned out to such an extent that it really isn't

(Continued on page 9.)



Doormat fluke and what it takes to catch them—heavy baitcasting rig, double-hook arrangement and whole squid and smelts for bait.

NATIONAL SCENE
with Al Ristori

PREDATOR/PREY PROBLEMS

A recent issue of the Sport Fishing Institute "Bulletin" carries some interesting information about the elusive relationship between predator and prey. According to Dr. Wilfred M. Carter, Executive Director of the International Atlantic Salmon Foundation, a recent decrease in abundance of Atlantic salmon may be connected with a corresponding depression in capelin abundance.

The capelin is a member of the smelt family found in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. They constitute an important food supply for fish such as cod and salmon, certain species of whales and other marine mammals. Until 1971 capelin were not fished extensively as food for man, and their great abundance assured dependent predators of a steady supply of forage. Then the Soviet Union became interested in this untapped resource and started a fishery in Canadian waters which grew rapidly. Starting at 70,803 metric tons in 1972, the total catch (Canada takes about ten percent) of capelin rose to 365,967 metric tons in 1975. A decline started in 1977, and by 1978, the catch had plummeted to only 85,000 metric tons.

In 1979, it was noted that the most notable "missing" segment of the Atlantic salmon runs was the two sea-year fish, in the ten to fourteen pound class. These are fish that would have gone to sea as smolts in the spring of 1977, just as the capelin were declining. Furthermore, they would have done their heaviest feeding during the summer of 1978, the same year that the catastrophe in the capelin fishery became painfully obvious.

According to Dr. Carter, the signs that capelin were being overfished were evident even before the catch dropped despite intensive effort. Farmers, who have historically harvested capelin off the beaches by the shovelful, reported as early as 1976 that they couldn't find any. Dick Stroud, Executive Vice-President of the Sport Fishing Institute, agrees with Dr. Carter that it's a pity that some of the people setting quotas for fishery stocks don't talk more to fishermen, noting their perceptive observations. Dick believes that less time should be spent relying on theoretical predictions of stock abundance, which have frequently proven to be overly optimistic. That sounds like heresy coming from a fisheries biologist, but Stroud goes on to quote the noted Canadian biologist and teacher, Dr. A. G. Huntsman as saying: "Observe what animals do, when and where, and you will find more answers than in your textbooks."

In an editorial published in the "IASF Newsletter," Dr. Carter concluded that as long as man continues to fish far down the food chain, harvesting huge quantities of small aquatic animals upon which commercially valuable species of larger fish depend for food, we can never hope to maintain fish stocks like salmon in abundance. That may well be the case; but we are still managing marine fisheries with little or no knowledge of the interrelationships between predator and prey. That extremely complicated subject is virtually ignored while biologists produce complicated equations (usually based on small samples) to determine the stock size of a certain species and recommend catch levels—as if that species stood isolated in the sea! Without knowing how that fish interacts with others as both predator and prey, "management" proceeds—though the most important parts of the jigsaw puzzle are missing.

Fortunately, some effort is now being expended on oceanic predator/prey relationships—though, at the present rate, there is little hope we'll have much in the way of solid information in the near future. In the meantime, how are we to deal with the sand eel explosion? The great increase in sand eels seems to be a good thing, as there is plenty of food for bluefish, striped bass, fluke, cod, pollack and many other species. Even two to three hundred pound tuna were feeding on them last year. On the other hand, there has been some suspicion that sand eels in their predatory role might be having a negative effect on such species as mackerel, herring and cod in larval stages. However, since all of those species seem to be increasing now, this doesn't seem to be an area of great concern at present. Yet, how would we react if a commercial fishery for sand eels was started on a massive basis? Could anyone tell us if this would endanger the voracious bluefish? Would that species have enough to eat in order to maintain its present great abundance—and, if so, would there be enough left for less aggressive species?

The answer to all of the above is probably "We really don't know." Yet, there is nothing to stop any American firm from catching every sand eel they can possibly handle—and by any means. Indeed, the only thing holding them back is the lack of a market for what is a perfectly edible species. A couple of years ago, there was a rumor that the Polish were going to apply for a permit to fish sand eels off our shores. I haven't heard any more about this for awhile, but the possibility certainly exists—and, in view of the huge quantities presently found in our waters, it's very likely that such a request would be granted. Yet, that would be done without having the faintest idea of the effect on virtually every important food and game fish in the North Atlantic.

Most of those fishing today hardly remember when bluefish weren't abundant. Yet, there was a long period from the mid-Thirties to the mid-Fifties when bluefish were very hard to come by—and most of those caught were quite small. Going back in history there are other examples of bluefish cycles. However, no one seems to have the faintest idea why these fish went right from peak abundance to sudden scarcity. Are they likely to be affected by disease when they become overly abundant, or do they just eat themselves out of house and home? Your guess is as good as mine, but I have noted a substantial increase in bluefish of all sizes during the same period that sand eels have been increasing rapidly. Could this massive availability of forage be the key to the maintenance of a cycle that's gone far beyond the period predicted by experts a decade or so ago? I don't have the answer to that, but I certainly wouldn't want to find out by watching the same thing happen to the sand eel as has already occurred to the capelin! There are already enough mistakes being made in the management of species higher up in the predator/prey chain. The greatest caution is called for in dealing with important forage species.

Mid-Atlantic Council Wants Info on Gulf Stream Eddies

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council has expressed an interest in learning about the fishing experiences of any boats working in the warm Gulf Stream eddies occurring off our Coast. Catches in these areas may be unusual due to the pocket of warm water which has become detached from the Gulf Stream. These eddies are constantly changing, but you can obtain dated information on them from the National Weather Service, or from the Council. You'll also probably note them by checking your temperature gauge as you make a run to the Canyon. Right now, the Gulf Stream may be beyond the one hundred fathom curve, but the eddies could be moving inside of it. Later in the season they'll often pop up well inshore. Please send fishing information associated with these warm eddies to John C. Bryson, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Federal Bldg., North and New St., Dover, Delaware 19901.

BUCKTAILS FOR FLUKE

by Capt. John DeMaio

Most sports are competitive. So, when placed against another player or team, you can evaluate your winning or losing. You have the obvious facts as to why the game ended the way it did. An error on a crucial play or, poor pitching. Bad passing, or a weak defense. "We lost the game under the boards." It is easy to find where you went wrong. Also, by judging the other team or players performance, you can see where, why, and how you won.

Now fishing is altogether different. Judging your performance on a fishing trip is almost impossible. The one on one battle does not exist here. What we are dealing with is an adversary who either bites, or doesn't bite. So the big question at the end of a poor fishing trip is, "Was it me, or the fish?"

Other questions come into play here, of course! Second one being, "Were there any fish in that spot?" That question can be answered if you have been fishing alongside other boats. These other boats can be labeled as competition. At the end of the day you can measure up to the "other guy", by who caught what. Thus enabling you to see if a certain fishing technique worked better than his.

This comparison evaluation works better when a fishing boat has more than one line in the water. Especially when bottom fishing where the hardest thing to do is make the fish bite. Lure fishing demands more and I will touch on one aspect of that in this article.

This past season I was fortunate enough to see the results of a new and different approach to an old method by observing the boats around me and the anglers in my boat. We were bottom fishing for fluke.

One approach is the use of a bucktail. This is not new to many anglers but I would like to give you some ideas I have about it. The other is a new concept on the old traditional fluke rig. First, the bucktail.

Using a bucktail to catch fluke certainly is not new. And it sure as hell isn't my idea. Surfcasters have taken fluke in this manner for a great many years now. Fluke are live bait feeders that will chase, and hit a moving bait. Or, combination bait and lure.

Back in the late forties and early fifties, I remember the night time bass fishermen on the Old South Channel Cross Bay Bridge. Many would work a plug on the ebb tide on the west side of the bridge. The north end was shallow. In the lights of the bridge the plugs would be silhouetted enough to entice dormant fluke to come off the bottom and hit the plug. On the flood tide, and opposite side of the bridge, us kids fishing snappers in the daytime would get a thrill from having a fluke rise up to a snapper bait and pull the float out of sight.

In both situations, the fluke came off the bottom and took a bait that he could see above him. This important factor is the key to what I call a new concept in fluking and the need of a new idea in rigging.

The reason why it has taken me almost thirty years to learn this lesson is because we all tend to follow. Never really taking a close look at what is happening around us. We learn with age. In age there is wisdom. Not necessarily intelligence.

Radical departures from conforming methods are not recommended. Still, after watching a good deal of fluke coming off the bottom to feed, I should have realized that this wasn't just one of those freak catches or mistakes. But I didn't. When I went after fluke I would use a fluke hook with a long leader.

Only these past eight years have I pursued fluke with a bucktail. At first because I enjoyed catching the fish in that manner. (Traditional style fluking bores me.) Later because it proved to be the better way.

Number one, the most essential asset for successful bucktailing of fluke, is **control**. This can only be achieved by a **feel** of the lure. To attain this feel I recommend the use of lighter pound test lines and lighter rods. Not too light a rod. An ultra light spin rod would not effectively achieve the bouncing action you need when using bucktails weighing over one half ounce, (short length nylon leaders can be used on light lines. Bouncing the bucktail will break the knot at the lure of a very light line.)

Control becomes difficult in deep water, strong tides, windy days, or all three together. Any one of the above three will determine the weight bucktail you should be using. Always use the lightest weight you can get away with. Smaller bucktails have a better action when being bounced up and down on the bottom. Just how heavy a bucktail you can use effectively is open for experiment. I have never used over two ounces.

Beware of the hook. Most bucktail manufacturers use strong, and most often, large hooks. Try not to use bigger than a 5/0 hook.

Johnny Kronuchs tackle shop in Montauk used to make a bucktail cast with a large flounder hook. (He probably still does.) The wire hook is thinner and does penetrate the fish faster. A quick acting hook is best because you strike at the bite.

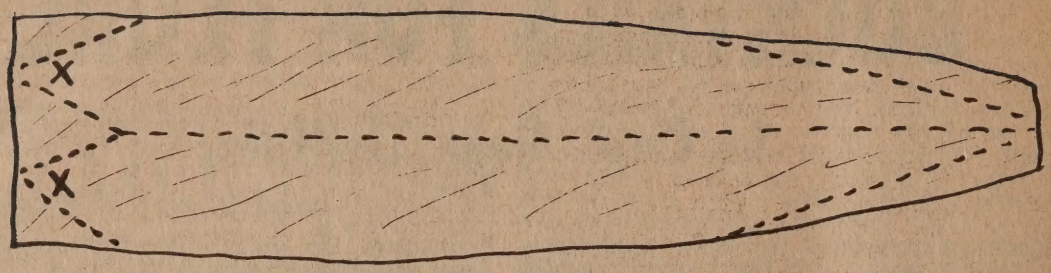
There is no waiting for the fish to swallow the bait up to the hook. Make sure all the bucktails you use tie on from the top of the lure and not the center. A set hook is a must. Never use a swing hook lure.

There are times when a piece of pork rind will be all the addition to the lure that is needed. Unfortunately in most situations, I would recommend the use of bait. Fish strips are best. Squid, fluke, porgie or whatever. (Try the belly of a bluefish. I believe it to be the best fish bait I have ever used.) This trick was given to me by Johnny Rade a few years back. Make sure you make all the strips narrow and short. No more than a half inch wide and five inches long. Different lengths are to be considered. The width should stay about the same. Eliminate any extra meat if the strip was filleted off a fat or round fish—such as a sea robin. Your fish strips should be **thin**. Long, narrow and thin. Put the hook into the skin side and out the meat side. When using sea robin try the orange colored skin area.

At times, particularly in very shallow water, you can cast and retrieve the lure. Make sure you work the lure back with a bouncing motion. Small bounces will do, merely inches off the bottom.

When you have enough water under the boat I would advise you to use the lure in a straight up and down method, simply bouncing the lure as you drift along. The **smallest** bounce is the best. A mere half inch off the bottom will do as long as you do it **rapidly**. Never let the lure lay still. On little bounces such as a half inch, the fish may not strike as hard on a big bounce. On big fluke in particular, what you will feel is the

(Continued on next page.)



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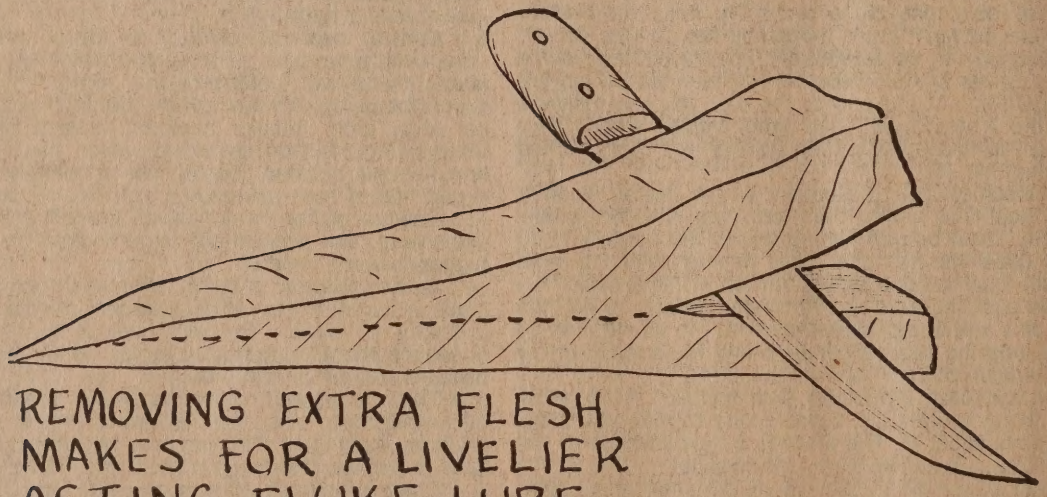


REMOVING EXTRA FLESH
MAKES FOR A LIVELIER
ACTING FLUKE LURE

PROPER PLACING
OF STRIP BAIT

weight of the fish—strike **quickly** and hard. Twenty percent of my catch I **steal** by swinging fast.

With the bigger bounce, and smaller fish, you will experience a fast hit. Once again, swing fast. After all, this is the fun of the lure, the fast action.

Always keep in mind that this style of fluke fishing is most successful during slack water periods, or fishing areas where there is little boat movement. The jigging of the lure will make that fluke snap.

Always work the lure as close as to up and down as you can. Once you begin to see a wide angle on the line, bring it up and start in all over again. With the angle comes a loss of **control**.

The bait should be placed on the hook like a piece of pork rind. With the hook going into the very end of the widest part of the strip and the narrow end trailing. **Don't** double the hook through the strip. Doubling up on the hook will kill the action of the entire presentation. Often resulting in no bite at all.

Be very careful not to allow the strip to **double up** on the hook. This is an unavoidable problem which comes from the action of the lure. You should be able to **feel** if the strip has doubled up on the hook. If you can feel that subtle difference in the lure action,(it creates a feeling of weight due to water resistance) you should be able to catch fluke.

Bucktailing fluke is by no means easy. It requires a lot of practice and understanding to master it. This I see almost every time I fish fluke on my boat. Some of the customers want to try their hand at it. They don't feel, or understand it. Naturally, they don't catch. I'm sure with time and practice they would be experts.

It will not work everywhere and everytime. The smart fisherman will know where and when. Smart through experience.

When used correctly this bucktail method will outfish the traditional one by at least two to one. When conditions are perfect, four to one. This is no boast, it is fact. I witnessed this by way of comparison, time and time again. By other boats around me, and the other anglers in my boat.

One more additional side effect of jigging the bucktail under the boat. It draws in more fluke that will pick up the other baits being offered.

Using bucktails is not for everyone. If you have been using the same cue stick as a fishing rod for the past twenty years, and think it is the best, then don't attempt bucktails. What follows will be of great help to you and also the second point of interest in this article. This is the new look, more so than bucktails, because it is more universal in its use.

The conventional fluke rig. I am convinced that most of us are using an ineffective riggin'. Even though we have embellished the fluke hook with spinners, spoons, hairs, beads and tassles, I do not believe it has improved its fish catching effectiveness. Not that the jewelry doesn't work. The **presentation** is poor.

Even the bucktail is a decorative attempt to lure the fish to the bait. Still, I offer the bucktail at the end of a line. Not behind a sinker. The sinker inhibits lure action. Direct tying to the line improves it.

To improve the rig and create the "new look," lets begin with the hook. Eliminate the long shank hook and replace with a small or standard size hook. I have had great success using a 2/0 gold plated eagle claw hook.

I don't think the gold plating is a must. Thin metal, and a curved offset point make this hook deadly. Tie on a piece of light mono leader material. No more than forty pound test stuff. If you insist on decorations, use a bucktail hook. The type used on the back of plugs. Only not the heavy hook required for plug use.

Captain Dick Vigilant, some years back, once told me he doesn't bother to use long leaders anymore for fluke hooks. I believe he was right. Even if the short leader isn't better, it can't hurt. Use a leader about eighteen inches long. Tie the hook to the line directly, without the aid of all those fancy tie-ons. Use a small piece of leader if you like for making the hook loop, sinker loop, and tying the line too. Tie in the hook about four inches over the sinker, no more.

Use any bait you normally would use. Keep in mind that most frozen baits are the worst. Always try to use fresh bait.

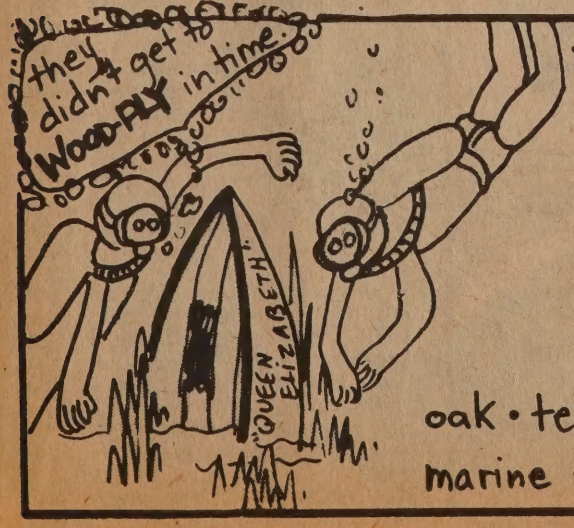
In using the new look rig, besides the normal dead line approach, try jigging the sinker lightly, as you drift. (Always use the lightest sinker possible when in a slack water situation. I would strongly advise a jigging of the line motion.)

The short leader and the jigging go well together. (Keeping in mind here that the jigging adds an erratic motion to your bait.) It will also **work** your bait over and slightly **above** the bottom.

Remember, the fluke is able to look in the **up** position best.

My customers and I outfished the boats around us more than once by using this type of fluke rig. I began using this rig by accident. All I was using really was my porgy hook rig, minus the top hook. Don't let the small size hook fool you. It sure will hold a big fish without any trouble. I had fish up to ten pounds on both this rig and the bucktail this season. Believe it or not the bucktail will always catch the biggest.

Experimentation with either of these rigs in your area is needed for attaining success. Every fishing area, or simply spot, has its own personality and demands a different approach. Maybe your spot needs the old chestnut rig—long everything. Or maybe a float on the hook leader. Just think about that for a minute. A float on the leader of the hook so the fluke can see it above him. Good luck.



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HOT WEATHER COD ACTION

Spicing Up the Summer

by Barbara Sands

It had been another day of endless trolling. Up and down our local coastline, out of Jones Inlet, studying the widespread outriggers for a clue to some signs of life below. Nothing had been attracted to our crafty umbrella rigs—not even a stray bonito. My eyes were boggling around in my head from straining out at the sea for working birds or schooling baitfish. Nary a nibble.

Once on shore, the task of cleaning up began, which would take us well into the evening hours.

A fishing buddy, who had been out on his own boat, and similarly skunked, remarked, "You know, with all the energy we have all put into the day, both in time and precious fuel, and coming back with zip, we could've been way out there on one boat, and really produced a few big ones!"

"Where?" Husband Larry and I chorused as one voice.

"Well...how about going cod-fishing on the Virginia Wreck?" It was the beginning of August. "I hear they're connecting out there."

Enthusiasm built upon enthusiasm and we decided to give it a go the following Saturday. We had a good two-and-a-half hour run to the Virginia Wreck, so we decided to leave the dock about six.

We would be fishing on the "Drop Stitch," commandeered by our friend Fred Zier, with his able first mate, wife Ernie. The boat was big and fast, with superb electronics. Many a game fish had fallen to the expertise aboard the "Drop Stitch."

Saturday morn, although it was just getting light when we left, the inlet was locked tight in fog. We had to pick our way from marker to marker with our radar until we hit the open ocean. The fog lifted almost an hour later.

We were using a very sophisticated Loran C. We punched in our destination numbers, and checked our position on the chart every half hour. Even though we knew exactly where we were, the ocean stretched out all around us enormously wide and vast. There is a special feeling of aloneness on a boat when shore is no longer in sight. There was not a wisp of cloud cover in the sky and just a slight haze on the horizon. Nothing marked the radar—not a freighter, a fellow fisherman, or a commercial trawler. We were alone this day with whatever the deep had to offer.

Or so I thought. While our super Loran was guiding us closer to our destination, a small blip popped up on the radar. "Another boat," announced Captain Fred. "I guess we're really not alone out here after all."

Our numbers on the Loran told us we were not more than half an hour from the wreck. It was really getting exciting now. There is always a special feeling of expectancy when approaching a new fishing hole—be it for minnows or monsters. I looked around the sea in front of me for a sign, any sign, that a wreck was buried beneath the water. But there was nothing to denote what was once a calamity, and had now turned into a playground for fish and anglers both.

We had reached the Virginia Wreck. Our arrival was announced by the Loran. And on the horizon, across this vast stretch of seemingly limitless ocean, another boat was bearing down on us hard.

Suddenly the ocean felt very crowded. "It's coming right at us," I mumbled and grumbled. "Let's anchor fast!"

"But we have to do it right," cautioned Larry. "We've got to anchor directly over the wreck. If we don't, we'll just be wasting our time."

By now, the intruding boat was plainly visible; a big sportfisherman like ours. It was obviously heading for the wreck also. I would never have believed that I could get claustrophobia fifty miles out to sea.

Our boat was pitching and rolling, and I shouted to Larry, "Hurry up with the anchor!"

"Barbara, no matter how long it takes to hook up, we have to do it right!"

Fred was watching his recorder. The outline of the wreck was just coming onto the graph.

"You know what happened to the 'Magnet'," Larry reminded me. The "Magnet" had anchored too close to a wreck, and got its anchor fouled. There was no line on the anchor, it was all chain, and everything was lost—the anchor and about 200' of chain. If a chain is hung up, there is no way to dislodge it. It has to be cut at the bow, a very expensive and fruitless way to fish.

During all this conversation, not only had the other boat caught up with us, but it was already drifting across the wreck, fishing.

We knew that if we dropped the anchor correctly, more fish would be available to us because we would be maintaining a close proximity to the wreck. It is necessary to anchor a little distance off the wreck, and then come floating back on it, letting

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the wind and the tide push the boat back over the wreck. It's not a bad idea to have a back-up anchor as a safety measure. A minimum of 600' of line is needed. You need 300' to 400' to anchor, and 200' to drop back. Actually, the more line, the better. An extra spool of 200' can't hurt.

As you ride on the anchor, the boat will swing on and off the wreck. We were lucky, and it was one of those calm, windless days when we could sit right on the wreck and bail big fish. Otherwise, the action wouldn't begin until the boat swung close to the wreck.

To read the wreck correctly on the recorder, you must be able to identify the bow and the stern. Sometimes the width of the wreck shows up clearly. At other times, all that can be seen is a cross section. If the wreck shows up horizontally, the bow and stern become easy to identify. The graph changes constantly as the boat swings, and must be studied carefully while the boat is being anchored.

All eyes suddenly focused on something bobbing beneath the surface. It was a buoy about three feet down, a devilish angler's marker that couldn't be seen from any distance.

We had taken two buoys of our own with us. As soon as we located the wreck on the graph, we dropped one buoy over the bow of the wreck, and one marker towards the stern. Our buoys were Clorox bottles on two pound sash weights and 180' of line. Once both buoys were placed, we judged wind and current, ran ahead, dropped our anchor, and maneuvered the boat back between the buoys. This is the most difficult part of anchoring, and may have to be repeated two or three times because the anchor does not always grab.

Time to fish! We were using thirty pound test line and 3/0 Penn Senators with twelve ounce weights. We had thick, juicy clams for bait. Irresistible to any self-respecting cod or pollack.

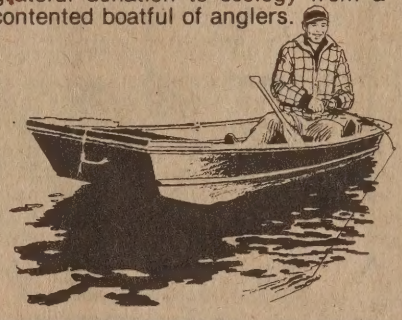
It had taken us over an hour to anchor to the mutual satisfaction of Larry and Captain Fred. This was the place.

Fred's wife Ernie was the first to get a hit. Ernie doesn't get excited easily, and as her rod bent over, she said casually, "You know, I think I have a fish." Then the tug was on. We strapped a belt on her, and she slowly pulled up a nice cod, about a twenty-five pounder.

My fingers tightened around my rod in anticipation. I felt a heavy draw, and my line moved slightly. I gave him a few more moments. One of the delights of bottom fishing is feeling the bait being taken, from that hesitant nibble to the final gulp. I lifted hard, and the fish was on. It was a big pull up to the surface, and my arms were aching. But then my fish, a hefty cod, broke the water and I reeled him up to the stern to be gaffed.

Then, one after the other, Larry pulled up two pollack, also good-sized. Fred got himself a couple of codfish, and Ernie did the rest. She got two more cod, and a pollack. What she didn't have in strength, she made up in determination.

Around two-thirty, our good weather started to break down. We decided to pull up anchor and head home. Once the anchor was up, we had to make sure to remove our visual buoys. But we couldn't get them loose. Somehow, the sash weights attached to the buoys had gotten caught in the wreck. We broke them off, so no markers would be left above the surface of the water for easy identification. In this way, we tried to prevent the wreck from being fished out. A small but grateful donation to ecology from a contented boatful of anglers.



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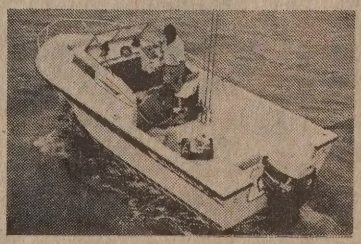

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COD

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** relayed word of fantastic codfishing at Coxes Ledge over this past weekend. Fish up to 55 lbs. were taken on both bait and jig and tube combos. The captain described the bluefishing nights as fair. They've been fishing bait at Block Island and all the fish being taken are real slammers. While porgy action was excellent on Friday, Paul described the weekend action as only fair, fishing at Pocketbook Ledge and, in front of the light. Good fluke action over the weekend at Montauk, with plenty of nice size fish being taken.

The charter boat **Adios** reported that the highlight of the week was an 80 lb. white marlin taken by Jake Caruso of New Jersey. The fish entertained party and crew with a spectacular display of aerial acrobatics. In addition to the marlin, a couple of makos and plenty of blue s sharks were taken during the week. Plenty of blues at Cartwright and at Block Island, according to Captain Phil Lewis, but weakfishing around the Point remains spotty.

Monday morning's half-day fluke trip in the nearby Montauk Rips resulted in some very good fluke catches with 5 fish going over 6 lbs. There were no throw-backs and all passengers had at least a few fish and those who knew what they were doing had several more.

Charter boat **Windy** called to say that they've had the best week of the year thusfar, loading up every day. Monday and Tuesday each saw porgy body counts of over 300 lbs. both days. Wednesday through Friday was a mixed bag of weakfish, porgies and macks. Saturday saw 900 lbs. of bluefish fly over the rail south of Block. Porgies and weaks were caught off Great Eastern and Pollack Rip. Blues were taken on umbrellas and porgies on clam. Weakfish couldn't resist good old diamond jigs.

These hangers were part of a big catch of cod made at Coxes Ledge on the "Viking Starship."

James Schneider of Huntington with a 28 lb. striper taken on a live eel at Montauk. Photo courtesy of Gone Fishing Marina.

Capt Joe of the charter boat **My Mate** tells of good weakfishing this past week on the several trips sailed. Saturday and Sunday Capt. Bob Markham and friends fished in the MCA Charity Tournament and did very nicely on shark offshore.

Gene Zarcone on his boat "Drifter" fished south of the Sub Buoy Sunday and with friend Larry Kaider bagged 70 weaks from 7 to 10 lbs., 50 macks from 2 to 3 lbs. and 30 blues in the 3 to 4 lbs. range, all on diamond jigs.

Capt. Gene Kelly on the charter boat **Hustler III** tells us the past couple of days he's been fishing SE of Block taking plenty of blue shark, with the minimum of a dozen a day. Friday his party also lost a mako that threw the hook after 8 jumps. Gene says he's also been seeing giant tuna moving in and they appear to be roughly 400 lb. fish and should start eating soon.

Charter boat **Montauk** called and told us that during the week he had many marlin in the slick. Saturday's charter for Tom Schubert bagged 195 lb. mako. Sunday's charter got 15 blue shark up to 200 lbs.

Capt. Terry of the charter boat **Buy Back** called to say that Sunday's shark charter SE of Block in 185' of water hooked up with a monster 15' long thresher shark estimated at 500 lbs. The party fought him for 1 hr. 45 minutes but lost the fish when his tail hit the back of the boat and went through the line. They also spotted a large basking shark and a great white.

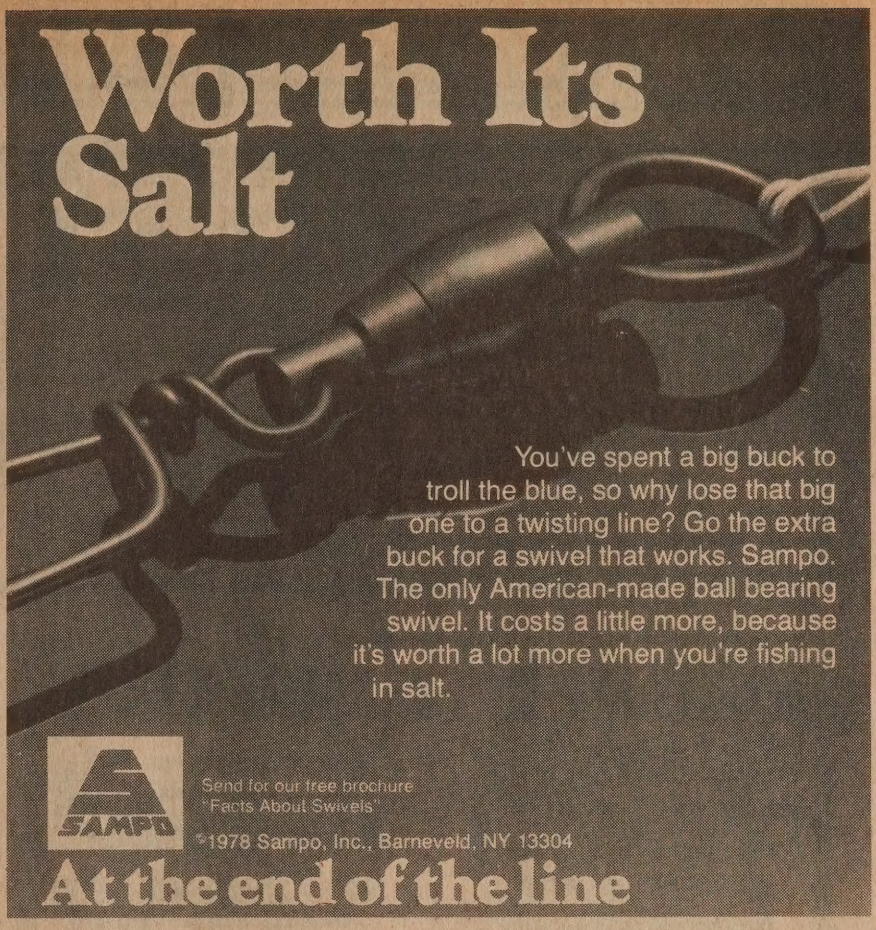
Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that the mako shark fishing has been excellent with some real brusers brought in. Prior to the tournament held on the weekend results of which will be published next week, Lou Rosado of Hempstead brought in a 455 lb. mako. Howard Glickberg on the Jinx hooked 3 mako shark, one of which was landed. The one brought to gaff weighed in at 202 lbs. but the other two sharks were lost

when they jumped and spit the hook. Howard reported sighting a fourth mako of about 500 lbs. in the chum slick but it wouldn't take a bait. They also tagged and released 22 blue sharks in the area SE of the Dumping Grounds. Henry said that the fluke fishing has been slow but there are some nice fish still coming out at the Pocketbook grounds. Porgy fishing has been slow to fair, with most boats going to Gardiner's for the action. Some giant bluefish are being taken south of Cartwright. Weakfishing can be phenominal when you find the schools of fish. Some mackerel still around, but virtually no bass.

Capt. Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** reported that he has been fishing around Gardiner's Island this past week. Although high hook on Saturday and Sunday was 39 and 33 fish respectively, the fishing had slowed compared to Thursday and Friday when most anglers caught between 30 and 50 fish each. Marvin Baer of Montauk was this week's high hook with 56 porgies.

Capt. John DeMaio of the charter boat **Vivienne** called to say that the weakfishing has been fantastic, but sometimes you have to work at finding the schools of fish. Best action is around slack water in the area between Shagwong and North Rips, and daily catches have run as high as 100 plus fish. Once you find the schools of weaks they can be caught on either diamond jig or tube rigs or trolling umbrellas. Not much news on striped bass.

Don, his son Eric and John and his son Tim, with 60 big weaks and some blues taken on Ava jigs aboard the charter boat "Vivienne."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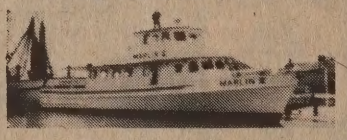

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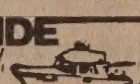

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FLUKE

SHINNECOCK

Hank at **Altenkirch Bait and Tackle** reported that Tred Barta of the Makaira journeyed to the Canyon over the weekend and returned with a pair of white marlin and 10 yellowfin tuna. The crew also fought but dropped a big blue marlin. Aboard the Proud Lady captained by Tom Johnson, Joe Chioffe took a white marlin and 3 yellowfin tuna at the 45 to 50 fathom line. Jimmy Piersall of the Thea IV had one of the bigger yellowfins to come to our attention this past weekend. The tuna checked in at 135 lbs. Tony Iddelson had a trio of makos from 70 to 137 lbs. over the weekend. Hank added that there are still flounder being taken in good numbers at the Basket Grounds and he described the fluke fishing in Shinnecock Bay as fair.

At **Speck's Bait and Tackle,** Thom reported some porgies in the 1/2 to 1 lb. range being taken at buoy 26 and at Nassau Point on worms and clams. Small weakfish being taken on squid strips at buoy 26, Jessup's and in Noyac Bay on the middle of incoming water. In Shinnecock Bay, there are still flounder at the Basket Grounds and near the mouth of Heady Creek. Thom described the fluking as fair, with the best scores being made in West Channel. A lot of short fluke being taken.

The **Capt. Clark II** reports that the summer fun of weakfish continues to improve. These fish are ranging from 1½ to 4 lbs. Best spots now are Nassau Point, Rose's Grove and South Race. Porgy fishing on the wrecks in Peconic Bay is holding steady, fish going from ¾ to 1½ lbs. Kingfish are being caught along with a few blacks. On Sunday Capt. Clark, Jr. did a good job on weaks and porgies at South Race. Peter Cahill of Elmont boated 37 porgies winning the pool with a 3 lb. weak.

Capt. John of the charter boat **Blue Water Drifter** tells of super sharking on the weekend. Saturday's trip for the Giacone Group of Albany had 1 dusky, 1 brown and 4 blue shark, one over 300 lbs. Sunday's 6 person charter for Jim Draper and group including 3 females had 7 blue shark and several huge bluefish. The ladies had 4 of the shark and all of the choppers. This was SE of Shinnecock Inlet in 170' of water.

HAMPTON BAYS

Mickey at **Corr's Mariners Cove**

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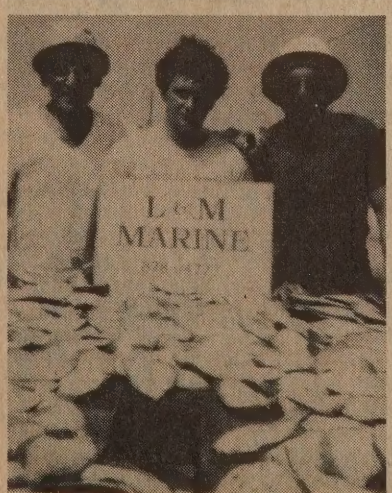

This catch of 160 flounder was made at buoy 39 on bloodworms and chum by Murray Baraban and Jerry and Peter Kaye of Queens. Photo courtesy of L&M Marine.

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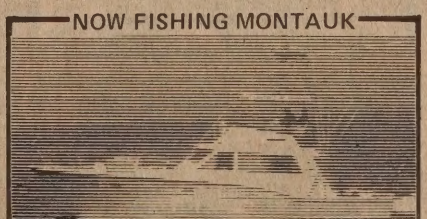

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Captain Bill with a load of bluefish taken on tubes behind buoy 17 in Moriches Bay. Photo courtesy of Stiriz' Marina.

said that most boats do well with the fluke. Although there are plenty of shorts, 14 to 15 keepers per boat is about average. Sand eels and killies have been very effective in East Channel. One boatman over the weekend used an umbrella rig to take seven stripers from 6 to 9 lbs. just outside the inlet. Out in 100' to 110' of water, umbrella rigs have been taking plenty of blues from 6 to 14 lbs.

MORICHES BAY

Seatuck Cove Fishing Station in Eastport informs us that the fluking has been good. Saturday saw Brooklyn angler Frank Steolaccio and Albert Eishamp of Ridgewood boat 20 keeper fluke up to 4 lbs. at buoy 41 on the ebb with squid and killies.

Ramona at **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** tells us that the fluking has been increasing on a daily basis in numbers. Ann and Vincent Della Rocca, and Jan Estales had a 5½ lb. fluke and 5 others on killies or sand eels along with squid strip on Saturday. On Sunday another skiff had 12 keeper fluke at buoy 41. Flounders were caught Sunday as well mainly in deeper water from buoy 39 to 41 on worms. Though the fluking is improving, there are still lots of midgets which should be returned to the water unharmed.

Tony Dacarro called to tell s that the 25th Annual Southshore Marlin and Tuna Club Tournament proved successful for some of its members. John Cuenin landed a 225 lb. mako last Sunday. John is from Brookhaven fishing abaord the Bob Kat caught a 64 lb. yellowfin tun on Sunday in the Hudson Canyon. The boat was captained by Bob Zeidler Jr. Pete Curreri also of Brookhaven brought his boat For-Petes-Sake, to the scale also. Doc Gallo of Pathcogue aboard Pete's boat landed a 47 lb white marlin caught in the canyon. Sal Palacino aboard the Queen Bess also got a 48 lb. yellowfin in the Canyon. Final tournament results will be posted on a later date.

Jim at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** called to say that Ed, John and Mickey Reidlinger boated 19 keeper fluke to 4 lbs. on killies, sand eels and squid. Fluking has improved particularly in the west part of the bay. Between buoys 39 and 41 on the south side on a sand bottom, skiffs are connecting also. There are still a load of shots, with a 50-50 keeper ratio. Plenty of activity. The Elbow area south of buoys 36 has been good also. Flounder fishing has been good northeast of buoy 41 and on the south side of buoy 39 and also between the bars at the Coast Guard Station on bloodworms. Small blues in the bay hitting tins and bucktail. A couple of 5 lb. weaks also taken just northeast of buoy 42 in the Hole.

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** told us that a local shark tournament, co-sponsored by Highway Marina and E. M. Bait and

This catch of 19 keeper fluke was made by Ed, John, and Mickey Reidlinger at buoys 43 and 44. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

Tackle was a huge success, with 29 boats competing for the $1,450 top prize. Stan Saneski aboard the Executioner finished up in the top spot with a 334 lb. tiger shark. Very good bluefishing southwest of the inlet in 100' to 110' of water, averaging 8 to 10 lbs. Choppers are being taken on jigs, chum and also being trolled. Paul Schwack aboard the Real Happy II put his crew to work on Sunday when in two hours time they boated 46 blues from 8-12 lbs. on umbrella rigs in 100' of water. In the bay, boatmen still doing a good job on the flounder and fluke fishing remains fair, with average catches running 8-10 flatfish per boat. One last bit of offshore news. Bill reported that on Saturday the private boat Striker II hooked up with a marlin in 135' of water, only to have it throw the hook after a couple of jumps. This was the first white inshore of the Canyon to come to our attention this season.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

MASTIC BEACH

Stiritz Fishing Station tells us that fluke are being caught from buoy 17 to 21 on squid, sand eels and spearing to the tune of 10 to 15 keepers a boat. Any running tide is working, but there are lots of short fish and they must be returned to the water. Three to 5 lb. blues are being caught from buoy 17 to the bridge and lots of 'em. Good numbers of school weakfish from 1½ to 2 lbs. at buoys 8 and 9 on worms and artificials. Ralph Pettre took 16 weakfish Saturday morning on Salty Dogs and spoons. Blowfish and sea bass at buoy 19, most boats returning with 30 to 40 specimens. This is on squid or clam bait fished on the bottom. Blue claw crabs between buoys 17 and 12 on rings and traps. Ron Gershaw had over a bushel. Benny De Pasquale on Sunday fished 140 degrees out of Moriches Inlet in 160' of water taking a 225 lb. mako and 175 lb. dusky. Mike Pula fished the same area on the same day and boated 360 lb. mako.

SAYVILLE

Bob Lee at **Young's Fishing Station** reported plenty of small blues and weaks from Davis Park west to Ocean Beach on tins and squid. He called the fluking good at buoys 13 and 13A and personally found spearing to be more effective than other baits. Plenty of very small snappers now around and

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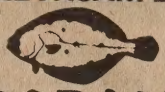

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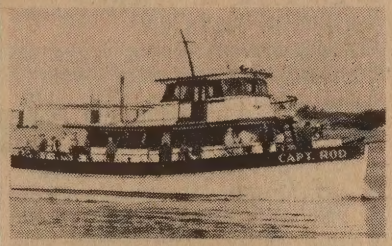

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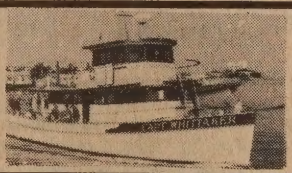

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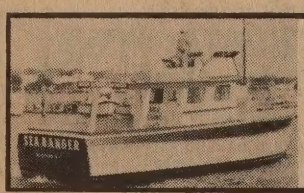

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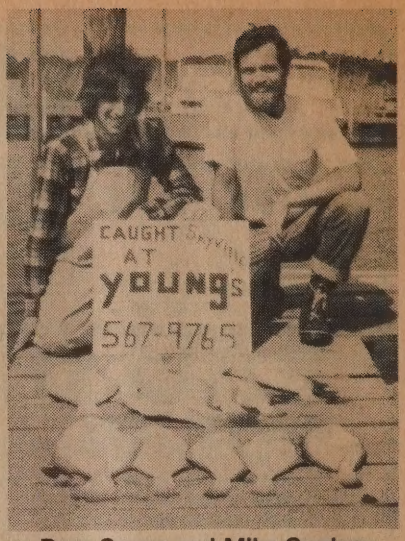

Dave Crocco and Mike Gardner with 15 fluke up to 3½ lbs. taken in West Channel on spearing and squid combos. The pair left from Young's Fishing Station.

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plenty of crabs in all their usual haunts. Last Wednesday, Mike and Darlene Gardner returned with 8 fluke to 3 lbs. and three bluefish which they took off of Heckscher. On Sunday, Howie Tobias, Larry Oakes and Nick Dianantis had a catch of 7 keeper fluke to 3½ lbs.

WEST SAYVILLE

From **South Bay Fishing Station**, Jim told us that there are lots of blues in the 3-5 lb. class spread throughout the bay. The area around West Island has been producing choppers fairly regularly. Squid strips taking small weakfish on the north side of the bay. Jim described the fluking from buoy 17 to Ocean Beach as decent with the best scores being made on sand eels. Excellent crabbing all over the area. On Saturday, Tom Dolan of Oakdale had a fine catch of 22 blues, 8 fluke and 4 weaks on squid and sand eels. Tom fished between buoy 17 and Ocean Beach.

BAY SHORE

Carl Miller of **Smokey's Tackle Shop** reported a catch of 7 fluke from 2-4 lbs., a 7 lb. weak and one bluefish for Tom and Barbara Woodruff. The couple fished from the Coast Guard Station to the lighthouse and used sand eel and squid combos. Fred, Kay, Rick, Nancy, Jim and Keith Stuben aboard their Five Sons, chummed up 45 blues in the 1½ to 3

lb. class in Steamboat Channel over the weekend. In general, Carl reported decent fluke fishing on the flood tide at Dickerson and Snake Hill Channels. He knew of blues and weaks trolled on umbrella rigs at the WR buoy and on the west bar. The weakfish ran 6-12 lbs. Small weaks off of Heckscher on squid and hi-lo rigs have been keeping small boatmen busy. Plenty of big blues from 6-14 lbs. keeping chummers and jiggers occupied in 100' of water off of Patchogue. Fishing in this area over the weekend was red hot and it looks like it may be a repeat of last year's sustained action. At the Bay Shore Marina, snappers now around but very small and very good crabbing throughout the area.

Capt. Neil of the **Casey Lee** tells of excellent fluking with over 250 keeper fluke Saturday. John and Jack Gunning of Central Islip had 17 keepers. On Sunday 37 fares had over 200 fluke with the best fishing being at West Island and Sexton Island on sand eels, spearing and squid.

CAPTREE

Bobby at the **Captree Bait Station** called the fluke fishing fair with a lot of shorts still being taken but a good showing of bigger fish as well. Both sand eels and killies have been equally effective on the summer flatfish. Bobby described the blue-fishing off of Patchogue as excellent. As excellent during the day and night. Open and charter boats loaded up with big choppers this past weekend. Bobby weighed in a 7.14 lb. fluke for Yum Pak taken aboard the Captain Leitch on Sunday. Also Sunday, Jeanna Cantanna of Elmont had a 7.1 lb. doormat aboard the Leo D.

Captain Marty of the **Jib Fleet** reported good fluke fishing all week, with most of the action back in the bay. He named West Channel and Dickerson Channel as being two of the more productive spots. Some nice sized fish now mixed in the catches. Best scores being made on sand eels or killies.

Wit reported for the **Captain Scotty** excellent bluefishing on Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday, Richie Bradley had 40 choppers single-handedly on the Patchogue grounds. Pool fish for the day was a 14 lb. chopper. The blues are being taken on jigs in the

Janine Pecoraro and Beth Anderson with a pair of nice fluke taken aboard the Captree charter boat "Lady Ann."

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John Weglowski and Wally Prydatko display a 6 lb. weak and a 4¾ lb. fluke taken recently in Great South Bay. Photo courtesy of Smokey's Bait and Tackle.

daytime and bait at night. Fish run anywhere from 6-15 lbs. Henceforth, departure time for the night bluefish run will be 7PM rather than 6PM. Be sure to make a note of this if you are planning to get in on some of this wild fishing.

Captain Charlie Kennedy of the new **Captain Bob Joseph** reported a slaughter on blues at the Patchogue grounds over the weekend. Diamond jigs and bananas taking the fish in the daytime, while nighttime anglers take most of their fish on bait. Most of the choppers are averaging 6-10 lbs. with the pool fish always running in the 13-15 lb. class. On the Saturday night run, 14-year-old Kevin Klause bagged 30 choppers during a wild night of blitz fishing.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** reports that after a gradual improvement on blues at the middle of the week, bluefishing has now turned into a pure slaughter. Saturday and Sunday ranged from very good to a slaughterhouse at the inshore Patchogue grounds, with fares catching chopper bluefish as fast as you can imagine. Fish are from 4 to 15 lbs. This has been the night trips. The fishing are biting most anything. Catches are made on sinker rigs or on split shot rigs drifted out into the chum slick. Catches have been in excess of 300 to 500 fish on the boat per trip. Morning and afternoon fluke trips have been very erratic. Most trips are yielding a few keepers per man. The night bluefish trips have to be experienced to be believed. Your reporter sailed aboard the **Captree Queen II** on Friday night's trip just prior to the blitz which started on the weekend. This fishing was on split shot rigs and fish were coming up or being worked most of the night. These fish ran from 5 to 12 pounders and fishing was on the inshore Patchogue grounds.

Charter boat **Capt. Leo** called to say he had very good fluking Saturday off Saltaire with 2 drifts producing 74

keeper fluke for 18 men. Five of these were in the 3 to 4 lb. range. The pool was a 4½ pounder on Saturday for Sean O'Hey of South Ozone Park. High hook with 8 fluke Harold West. His brother George had 6 keepers. The o'Hays are from South Ozone Park too. Sunday's charter was taken to the same spot. While the same numbers of fish were not caught, Elmont anglerette Gina Campana bagged a 7 lb. 1 oz. semi-doormat, which the skipper belives to be the biggest fluke being taken this month at Captree. The next biggest fish was a 5 plus pounder. The body count for the day was 30 keepers for 16 people.

Charter boat **Lady Ann** reported good fluking Friday and very good bluefishing on Saturday with 150 bluefish taken off inner Patchogue. Another trip saw 16 men take over 300 bluefish. The blues are in so make your plans.

Charter boat **Eleanor** reports that despite intense boat traffic inside on the weekend, his charter managed some keeper fluke working West Channel on Sunday and on Saturday around the edges of the channel below buoy 4.

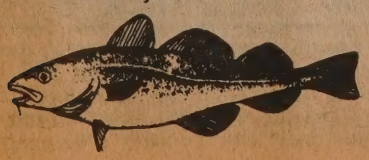
The **Capt. Joseph Fleet** reports between 150 and 200 fluke which constituted good fluking all week. Fish were mixed sizes. Saturday slowed down but Sunday afternoon was good again. Largest fish was a 6 lb. specimen. Fishing was from the State Channel to Ocean Beach.

Charter boat **Capt. Eddie B II** called to report bluefishing Friday and Saturday night was a slaughter on blues from 5 to 11 lbs. Fluke charters during the week also produced good catches with a satisfactory number of keepers.

BABYLON

At **Augie's Tackle Shop**, Fred reported that Frank Carnese and Chris Thorpe used umbrella rigs to troll 11 weaks up to 8½ lbs. and 15 bluefish at the lighthouse. Eleven year old Kara Coakley had a 4 lb. fluke on Saturday. Fred knew of five white marlin and a mess of yellowfin tuna taken at the Canyon over the weekend. Among the boats scoring were the Jen S, the Jerri N, For Pete's Sake, Miss Marion, Queen Bess and the My Way. Plenty of blues south of Patchogue in 80 to 100 feet of water for jiggers and trollers, according to Fred.

Capt. Ron of the charter boat **Seabird** tells of super bluefishing jigging off Patchogue in 95' of water with diamond jigs and bananas. Fluking has been fair on the flood but is considerably shadowed by the bluefish activity.



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FLUKE

SEAFORD

From **Lon Wansers Tackle Shop**, Lon reported lots of fluke, although the majority are still shorts. Some fish in the 4-5 lb. class are mixed in, however. Sand eels and squid combos have been the number one fluke getter with killie and squid combos running second in popularity. Best spots have been Massapequa Cove, West Island, Goose Creek, Four Corners and west of the drawbridge. Some weakfish on sand worms at the 3rd bridge for those using 3x3 rigs. Some flounder still being caught near the bridges and an occasional bass on clam chum. Plenty of small snappers around and it looks like a good season ahead for these little scrappers. Crabbing also very good in the area. For bluefish fans, good fishing south of the Cholera on Ava Jig-N-Tails.

Artie Wright called from **Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station** to report fair fluke fishing this past weekend at Florence Beach, Massapequa Cove and Four Corners. Good crabbing from the town dock and in the canals and still some flounder in the deeper holes near the bridges on worm bait.

Mario at **High Hook Fishing Station** advises that his Italian Style Old Fashion Seafood Restaurant located right next to his fishing station is now open every day except Monday with Mario himself doing all the cooking. His says if you want some delicious personalized cooking, to drop in for one of his super meals. You'll find the restaurant at the end of Fire Island Ave.

Pop's Fishing Station tells of good fluking with 20 to 25 fish per boat, ending up in 4 to 5 keepers out of that number. A 6½ lb. fluke was caught by Joe and Tony Pepitone this past week. Jason Horn of Glendale fished the east side of the 2nd Bridge with killies and squid, accounting for 10 keepers during the week. Bill Duyrea managed 14 keepers over the weekend at Squaw Island. Lots of fish have been just under the legal size which means that in a few weeks time these fish will be keepers. Blue claws being caught in Seaman's Neck Park and at the Grass Catcher off Amityville.

MERRICK

Charter boat **Suzzane** reports that Sunday morning their charter picked up 25 bluefish in 155' of water, 150 degrees out of Jones. Weakfish have also moved into the same area.

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** tells of a 165 lb. mako for Ralph Drews on his boat Oceanic Saturday fishing in 180' of water 145 degrees out of Jones and also a catch of bluefish up to 16½ lbs. Buddy Holmes of Merrick fishing with bass sharpie Dennis Newman live line bunker at Haunts Creek and resulted in a catch Thursday morning of a 34 lb. striper, Friday morning a 22 pounder and Saturday morning a 28 lb. striper, all on flooding tide. Lots of small fluke around but a few keepers can be culled out. Best spots have been Rowboat Alley, Merrick Point and Fundy.

Scott at **Merrick Tackle** in Bellmore tells of the latest skillful angling award earned by Amy Freeald of Flushing with a 10 lb. 12 oz. weak taken in Swift Creek Saturday on sand eel. Bluefish are all over the ocean. They are being trolled off Lido for the private boaters and the further out you go the bigger they are. Swift Creek produced a couple of fluke this week. Snappers are starting but they are very small. Weaks and small blues off the West End Jetty on diamond jigs, D 5's and J 7's.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station tells us that Doctor Stu Bernstein and son had 14 blues on Sunday and John Hines trolled up 20. These were 8 lb. class fish which were umbrelled two miles south of Jone's Inlet. Weakfish at the Meadowbrook Bridge both Saturday and Sunday morning 2 hours before the high on Tri-Fin jelly worms. These were 7½ lb. class fish. Fluking has been fair in Baldwin Bay at the Beach Club but plenty of small fish which must be returned to the water. Good blue claw crabs in Baldwin Bay and Middle Bay on killie rings.

Mark Luziani displays the 5.5 fluke and 11.12 weak he took on Jellyworms and squid strips in West Channel. Subscriber photo.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE

★ BEST BET ★

BLUES

FREEPORT

Ronnie reported from **Sea Isle Tackle Center** that both blues and weaks were trolled on umbrella rigs off of Lido on the weekend. Lots of blues at Cholera in the 4-8 lb. class on jigs, bait and chum. A few weakfish mixed with the choppers. Loads of fluke in the area but most are shorts and must be returned to the water and still plenty of flounder being taken at Swift Creek.

Capt Richie of the **Starstream II** reports good solid catches of bluefish all week and weekend long, in the 3 to 14 lb. range. Passengers caught fish from the NB to the Mud Hole and fish were taken on jigs and also on bait and chum. Richie says there were loads and loads of bluefish to be caught Friday, Saturday and Sunday. He's says there are all the blues you want ready to be caught. As for the jigging, even bigger catches can be made by being ready to drop the jig down as soon as the word is given, as that's when the boat is right over the school.

The **Capt Gary** tells us that Sunday's charter from Alexanders had fair catches in the fluke department. Lots of shorts around but there are also a couple of 3 pounders pulled. The skipper worked both the Inlet and the back creeks. Best was Reynold's Channel near Swift Creek. Howie Adelman bagged a 4 lb. black at Garrett's Lead on a fluke rig tipped with killie and squid. How's that for blackfish bait.

Charter boat **Thalsomania** reports that he's been catching fluke in Swift Creek as well as flounder, flounder running from ¾ to 1 lb. He's also been taking weakfish in the Inlet in the 6 lb. range. All this was on Thursday's half day trip for Cliff Smith and party.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** socked it to the blues Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Friday saw Capt. Sy Karlin on the **Blue Fin II** and Capt. Tony DiLernia on the **Blue Fin III** fish SW of the Inlet and take fish 3 to 10 lbs. This was day time fishing, all on jigs and banana splits. Green was the best color. Saturday was almost a direct repeat of Friday. Bill Remien of the Bronx was high hook on the **Blue Fin III**. On Sunday Capt. Charlie Adams running the **Blue Fin II** averaged 10 bluefish a man in the same area. Pete Bilella of Plainview was high hook Sunday. Aboard the **Blue Fin II** Sunday Maspeth John Wykretowicz bagged a 5 lb. 1 oz. fluke. Capt. Sy Karlin says

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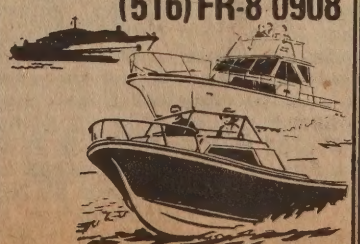

Bob Matzen and friends from Islip with a nice catch of blues made aboard the charter boat Nan-Sea.

there's no doubt about it. The bluefish are with us good and solid.

Capt. Dan of the charter boat **Nan Sea** called to say that on Sunday he fished SE of the HA and had lots of action. They took a small dusky, and a hammerhead came up to the boat, looked around, and beat it. An estimated 300 lb. mako was on for fifteen minutes before he broke the leader. A 50 lb. mako was landed by Jack Kozak and party.

The **Freeport Boatmen's Association** reports that all of the boats in the association did a job on bluefish Saturday and Sunday with Sunday being the superest of the super. Blues were jigged, trolled and chummed said Capt. Walt Scott. Loads of fish were caught. Nearly everyone fishing SW of Cholera with blues running up to 12 lbs. "All the blues you want" said Walt. Private boats were also doing a job dragging umbrellas. Charter boat **Big Foot** returned from a 2 day canyon trip Sunday with 8 yellowfin tuna in the 30 to 50 lb. range, a small mako, a big blue shark, a tilefish and some skippies.

Charter boat **The Rogue** reports that Friday's charter for Joe Goldstein of Baldwin had blues caught in 50 to 65' of water off the Jone's Beach tower. This was on black umbrellas trolled on the surface. Sunday's charter lead by Louis Feil had many large blues from 4 to 10 lbs. on red umbrellas in 50' of water off the tower. Some good size fluke were also picked up in Swift and Long Creeks.

Lou's Fishing Station (Formerly Charvin) tells about the fantastic bluefishing from Friday through Sunday at Cholera, Three Sisters, Buoy 4, just about all over the place. Lou says fish were trolled, chummed and jigged day and night and all fish were good size up to 14 lb. 8 oz. Weakfish are sometimes mixed in. Doctor Martin Greenspan on his boat Sea Master trolled weakfish on umbrellas Saturday in the 7 to 8 lb. range off Jone's Inlet. Saturday saw two makos for Jim Biehl on his boat Dona B. They went to 155 lbs. and 80 lbs. and were taken in 150' of water, 150 degrees out of Jones. Jim also released 10 duskies to 150 lbs. Jim is a member of the New Anglers, Oceanside. Sunday charter boat **Suzanne** with Capt. Joe Musso at the wheel trolled off Jone's Tower and loaded up with mixed weaks and blues. Catches of fluke have been fair to good in the back creeks and from Meadowbrook Bridge to the Coast Guard Station on squid and killies. Peter Martin bagged a 23 lb. 12 oz. striper on a plug at West End II Saturday night. Pete's a member of Atlantis Anglers.

Capt. Mike Miller of the charter boat **Apus** reports that Dennis O'Connor tagged 140 lb. dusky during the week. Friday's charter trolled up 60 to 70 blues from 7 to 12 lbs. fishing SW of the Inlet. Saturday's charter had very good sharking with 3 makos hooked but only one taken to gaff. Along with the makos, bluefish were caught and brown shark were tagged and released. After losing by 20 lbs. and coming in 3rd at last week's Charvin Tournament, the same charter of John Wellman, Ronnie and Brian came back to enter the Frank's Marina Tournament. The crew nailed 2 makos, the larger being 165 lbs. which took 1st place.

Capt. Bill Venezia of the charter boat **Ivory Queen** last Sunday had the party of Steve and Derek Critelli of Rosedale out and they had 2 duskies in the 50 lb. class and 35 big blues SE of Jones. Monday's trip for Rich Cesarano and John Turke of Bensenhurst, bagged the 5th mako since June 21st taken on the **Ivory Queen**. This fish was 73 lbs. A 200 lb. and 60 lb. dusky were tagged and released. Twenty eight bluefish rounded up the trip. Wednesday's charter for Art Engelbrecht and party managed a 50 lb. dusky which was tagged and released. Thursday's charter with Capt. Joe Impellizzieri at the wheel fished Frank Schaeffer and party of Amoco Oil Co. They had 2 duskies, a blue shark which was released, and 6 choppers. Saturday's charter at the HA ended up with a 389 lb. mako for Forest Parkway Fishing Club of Woodhaven. That made the 6th mako for the boat. President Ed Shiksnis

Walter Stuven and his daughters Kerry and Karen with part of a fine catch of fluke made aboard the "Capt. Hall" out of Freeport.

12-year-old Dave Solomon with a load of blues caught on umbrella rigs at Sandy Hook aboard the charter boat "Kim."

had all 6 members fight the fish in turn and the total fighting time was 3½ hours.

Ronnie Bauer at **Hudson Point Fishing Station** weighed in a 389 lb. mako taken aboard the charter boat **Ivory Queen** Saturday. Ronnie says lots other makos were taken over the weekend also. Excellent flounder fishing at the Coast Guard Station on both tides on clam and worm. Ronnie weighed in a 2 lb. 12 oz. flounder this week. Fluking is improving, with more keepers taken in the back bays with Swift, Long and Scow Creeks best. Mixed blues and weaks in 40 to 60' of water south of the Inlet off the Hotel.

POINT LOOKOUT

From **Ed's Fishing Station**, we were told of improved fluke fishing at buoy 19 and on the flats bordering Reynolds Channel. On Sunday, Bruno Grabiec and Walt Stevens had 28 keepers fishing the flats. Same day, Charlie Krystoff had a 4 lber. among his catch of 7 keepers, also made on the flats. Sand eel or killie and squid combos have both been effective on the summer flatfish. Howie Frankel and friends aboard the Chubbs II loaded up with blues and weaks to 12 lbs. on umbrella rigs off of Lido Beach Sunday.

Capt. Dennis of the charter boat **Marie III** tells us that Wednesday's charter for Rodney Rhodes of Valley Stream and group had from 75 to 100 bluefish. High hook in the junior division was Alex Vasquez Jr. age 12 with 5 blues. The pool was taken by Alex Sr. with a 12 lb. chopper. Trolled umbrellas and diamond jigs and green banana splits did the trick in 60' of water SW of the Inlet. This group was from Pompton Lakes, NJ. Saturday's charter for Mike Nigro and group from Con Edison averaged 4 to

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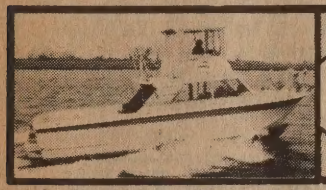

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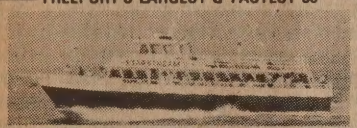

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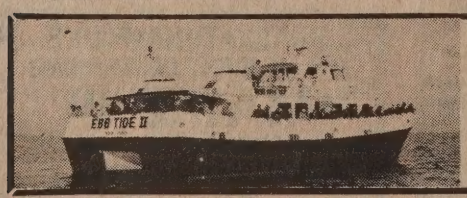

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First Traffic Light at Jack's Bait & Tackle

6 blues a man all on diamond jigs and banana splits in 90' of water south of the Inlet. Sunday's trip, said the skipper, couldn't ask for faster fishing. The charter for James Caruso and group bagged over 200 bluefish. They were from Butcher Associates of Howard Beach and Joe Velotti took the pool with a 12 pounder. Fish averaged 8 lbs. and this action was in 90' of water south of the Inlet. Wednesday and Saturday, those who worked hardest at it caught the most fish. On Sunday the bluefish were commiting suicide and gaffs flew. Dennis says that those using Penn jig masters out fished all the others. The fast retrive for the jigs is a must. Dennis says he still has some open night dates and also some weekdays available.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie at **Beckman's Tackle Shop** called the fluking in the area fair. He knew of blues and weaks to 10 lbs. in 15-35' of water from the Jones Beach tower west to the Breezy Point Jetty being taken by umbrella rig trollers. Crabbing has improved greatly and lots of sand porgies now being taken in the Bay Park area.

LONG BEACH

Frank at the **Long Beach Sports Marina** reported a 3½ lb. fluke for young Charlie Proceller. For the second week in a row, Mary Gagliardi embarrassed her husband by boating a 5 lb. fluke right in front of the marina dock. Good bluefishing offshore, according to Frank for trollers, jiggers and chummers. On Sunday, Ken Krat returned with 7 bluefish and hooked what he supposes was a tuna since the fish is still going, trailing 300 yards of Ken's line with him. Action occurred at the HA buoy on feathers.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Capt. Ron Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** tells us that he's had a super great week, catching all big blues and weakfish. A real blitz says Ron. Some days you'll get 40 to 50 weakfish and 40 to 50 bluefish on the same day for just 3 men. Things slowed down on Saturday a bit but bounced back Sunday. Weaks are 8 to 12 pounders and blues 12 to 15 pounders all on umbrellas and jigs. Ron is fishing the NY Bight anywhere between Breezy Point and the Highlands.

JAMAICA BAY

Artie of **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** reported good fluke fishing in the area, particularly from the Marine Parkway Bridge to the North Channel Bridge. Steve Derario weighed in a 4¾ lb. fluke which he took from the North Channel Bridge over the

weekend. Also over the weekend, one trio of anglers stopped by the shop with a fine catch of 30 fluke to 4 lbs. and a 5 lb. weak, made on killies at buoys 5 and 6. Artie called the crabbing in the area "great."

Canarsie Sports and Fishing Tackle reports that a few small snappers and some small porgies and a few fluke have been caught this past week off the Canarsie Pier. Lots of fluke in the bay. A few 5 to 6 pounders have been boated during the week, mainly in the JFK area on spearing, sandeels and squid. The Marine Parkway Bridge has produced a few blackfish and flounder.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

John at **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** told us that there are plenty of blues around for jiggers and trollers. Big weakfish in the 5-10 lb. class being taken on jigs mornings and evenings at the Tin Can Grounds. Fair fluking down along Coney Island on spearing, sand eels and squid, according to John.

Captain Tom of the **Pilot II** reported that blackfishing over the weekend was slow, but the boat is doing excellent on the afternoon weakfish trips. The trip runs from 5PM to 10PM and catches of 75 to 100 weakfish were had this weekend. These fish are being pulled from the area of the Tin Can Grounds to the Fisherman buoy. Nice sized bluefish are mixed in with catches.

Capt. Walt on the **Flamingo III** reports that the bluefishing is just fantastic with the fish now being caught locally, working in the area of the Scotland Light. The fish are being pulled all day long says Walt. They are feeding on baby mackerel, anchoives and sand eels. The boat runs from school to school and action is frantic. Just drop the jig to the bottom and a fast retrieve is almost sure to put a fish on the jig. Walt describes this as jig fishing at it's best. Just cast and retrieve for instant "bluefish". These are 6 to 8 lb. blues with a good number of 10 to 12 pounders mixed in. They really busted loose on Sunday. Friday saw over 200 weaks caught on the boat. It was a terrific day with clouds and overcast and nothing but big weakfish in the 6 to 8 lb. range on diamond jigs. Walt says the potential for heavy daily catches is excellent from here on in on weaks and blues. Naturally every day is a brand new ballgame but the chances of connecting is super.

Charter boat **Babe** says the blues are definitely in range now and that dates are filling up rapidly so now's the time to book. The skipper is running special bass trips for those interested. He has been fluking Long Branch and Shrewsbury and getting some good catches on big flatties.

Elsie K III skipper Capt. Tom says the fluke has improved this past week with a lot of 2 to 4 lb. fluke being taken. A 6 lb. 14 oz. specimen took

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the pool on Tuesday. Very few throw backs now. Tom is working the channels and Sandy Hook. High hook each day is usually between 10 to 20 keepers. The boat is now starting night weak and bluefishing trips on Wednesday and Saturday nights sailing at 5 p.m. The first trip will be this Saturday night, July 19th. Give Tom a call if you have any questions.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santos Sport Shop** reported big weaks inside of Great Kills Harbor on bunkers and sand worms. Many of the fish are in the 8-12 lb. category. The yellowfins also are being taken in Princess Bay on worms or on trolled red and green tubes. Blues being trolled in the same area with the weaks. Lenny described the fluke fishing as pretty good, he called the crabbing good and said there are plenty of sand porgies around to keep pier fishermen and rowboat fishermen busy.

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BLACKS & PORGIES

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40' CHARTERBOAT

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BLUEFISH

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PECONICS & GARDINERS

★ BEST BET ★

PORGIES

GREENPORT

Capt. John of the **Blue Albatross** for his party of 5 Saturday had 25 fluke in the 4 to 6 lb. range plus 30 mixed sized porgies.

Capt. Bob of the **Peconic Star** called via the marine operator to tell of a fantastic Friday, Saturday and Sunday on porgies with catches of 15 to 35 good size porgies a man and even higher. Pete Gerrif of N. Babylon on Friday boated 39 porgies and 11 lb. 8 oz. weakfish to take the pool. Saturday was very very good at Gardiner's with all medium size fish and plentiful at that. Sunday was also excellent with Levittown angler Dan Mahoney high hook with 57 porgies.

Charter boat **Nancy Ann** tells of very good bluefishing and weakfishing all week long. Capt. Rich Jensen says he had between 100 and 200 fish every day. This has been on diamond jigs south of Horton's Point. Blues are 3 to 5 lb. and weakfish 3 to 12 lbs.

From his **A. P. White Bait Shop**, Art White spoke of very good fluke action at the Ruins on sand eel and squid combos. Both blues and weaks taken on umbrella rigs and jigs in the rips east of Gardiner's Island. Blackfishing in the area remains very good, with some of the tautogs weighing as much as 11 lbs. On Sunday, P. Asahi and friends fished aboard the **Prowler II** east of Gardiner's Island and during the flood tide loaded up with 14 large fluke and 3 bushels of porgies. A few big bass in the Gut and the Sluiceway on eels, according to Art. Several 50 and 60 lbers. taken from the area in recent weeks.

SOUTHOLD

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** says porgies are a good item in the bay at buoy 16, South Ferry and Cedar Point of mixed sizes up to 2 lbs. on worm and clam. Some weakfish being jigged at the Brickyard with red colors working best. The weaks are in the 7 to 8 lb. range and are also at buoy 18. Both tides are producing. Hay Beach has been yielding 2 to 3 lb. blues and 6 to 8 lb. weakfish on diamond jigs. The Orient Station has been yielding big porgies right in front of the station, as has Petty's Bight and Mulford Point. They've been picking fluke at Petty's Bight. Fourteen fluke up to 3lbs. for Mike Monica and Paul Longarello of Seaford in one skiff. Some blackfish at Mulford Point and at the Orient Point rocks at the Lighthouse on fiddlers and green crab. Flounder are still happily feeding east of the Orient Station and at the nets and at Orient State Park. These flatties are running from ¾ to 1½ lbs. on worm and clam.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station tells of weakfish from 1½ to 4 lbs. on the weekend at Rose Grove and from Middle Grounds to Cow Neck. Porgies have been taken in the same area up to 2 lbs., mainly off Roses Grove. Quite a few 3 to 4 lb. fluke picked in this same area over the weekend. Best porgy action has been at buoys 22, 23 and 25 and also buoy 30. Weaks and porgies have also been taken west of Robin's at buoy 4. Kingfish have started at buoy 4, hitting worm and clam on the bottom. Weaks are also hitting squid. A few blackfish off Robin's Island on the SW side of the rocks in the 4 to 5 lb. range. Porgies are the best bet on both tides using clam, worm and chum.

NOYAC

Noyac Fishing Station reports an improvement on weakfish Sunday afternoon. A good catch was made by Bill Fales and friends fishing between the marina and buoy 16. Fluke were also taken Saturday at buoy 16 and squid is a good bet for both species. Some very decent size porgies have been taken on squid bait and corn chum at buoy 16 and also off Shelter Island. Call the fishing station for the exact hot spot of the week.

SAG HARBOR

Capt. Artie Latch of the **Wilhelric** says that the porgy fishing has been on the upswing all week long and the fish are behaving according to schedule. They are mixed sizes, depending on the day. Pete Bogan of Westbury had 43 porgies Sunday, Howard Stoges of Cinncinatti hooked and landed a 7½ lb. fluke. A total of 9 fluke were caught on the boat Sunday and the fishing was at Plum Island, Gardiner's and Constellation Rock.

Chris at **Bayview Fishing Station** says there are fluke at Cedar Point which are just a little over the legal size. Fluke are also off the Ruins in the 4 to 5 lbs. range on squid, spearing and killies on all moving water. Two to 4 lb. bluefish are hitting diamond jigs at Mashomak Point. Some weaks in Noyac Bay off the Monastery and buoy 16. Porgy action has been very good just off Cedar

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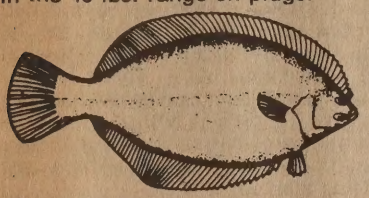
Point of mixed sizes on clam and worm.

Capt. Bob of the charter boat **Sundance** tells us that shark fishing has been good, averaging 2 blue sharks a man. Each trip has seen a couple of white shark sighted in the estimated range of 2000 lbs. Two makos were hooked this past week by charters but they were dropped. Bob says the fishing has been very good and that he's catching lots of bluefish from 5 to 15 lbs. plus a couple of bass in the 40 lbs. range on plugs.



NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★

BLUES

ROCKY POINT

Stan at the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** spoke of good porgy fishing from Broadway all the way to wading river. Fish are being taken on worms and chumming helps considerably. Blackfish still hanging in there on worms, clams and crabs. Weakfish from 8-12 lbs. and blues to 4 lbs. taken on jigs at buoy 11 this past week. For freshwater fans, Robbie Celetano and Jerry Lyons fished Yaphank Lake early Monday morning and had areal good catch of largemouths up to 4½ lbs. Most of the bass were released unharmed.

SELDEN

Kenny at **Angler's Den** happily reports that the Angler's Den Weakfish Tournament this weekend was a super success with a total 2500 weakfish caught in the tournament. No entrants got skunked. 95 percent of the fish were taken out of the area from Port Jeff to Mt. Misery Shoal. The weather was great and the fish cooperated. First place went to Tony Kevel on his boat Big Banana. This

★ SHEEPSHEAD BAY ★

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★ 6:30 A.M. DAILY ★

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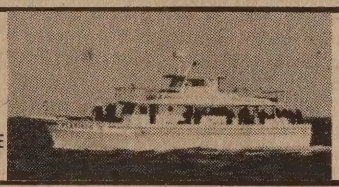

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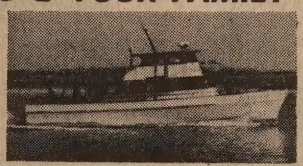

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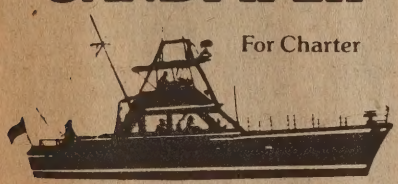

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Capt. Butch (212) 375-2892 after 6 PM

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AFTERNOON FLUKE & BLUES

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• REASONABLE RATES ★

CAPT. HARRY WEEKDAYS (212) 868-8853 WEEKENDS (212) 266-6000

fish was 12 lbs. even and won $500 cash and a free mount. Second Place went to Tony Taverna on the boat Old Salt. This 11 lb. 12 oz. weak earned Tony $250. Third Place went to Joe Daniels on Tara II with an 11 lb. 8 oz. weak. Ten pounds four ounces was the smallest weak that qualified for a gift certificate. Ken weighed in over 500 weakfish throughout the weekend. He wishes to thank all who participated and hopes to see you all again next year. Aside from weakfish lots of porgies are being caught from Crane's Neck to the east, fish of mixed sizes up to 3½ lbs. Quantities are good with daybreak being super. A good scattering of fluke being caught from Crane Neck to Shoreham in the 2 to 5 lb. range. An 11½ lb. bluefish was taken by Lori Mangan between Crane and the Northport stacks.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Bob at **Fisherman's Haven** says that there are all kinds of fish to be taken now. Weaks at Mt. Misery Shoals are hitting well at night, especially just after dark. These fish are in the 7 to 11 lb. range hitting worm and squid bait and also falling to diamond jigs at night. Big porgies at buoy 11 on squid or worms. Lots of small stripers on cast Rebels or trolled sand worms at night around the high tide at Port Jeff Harbor and just outside thereof.

Ralph's Fishing Station says that Rocky Point has been strong on porgies in the ½ to 1½ lb. range on clam and worm. Fluke are being drifted along the shore on sand eels and squid with a 50 percent keeper ratio, both tides working. Some weaks and a few blues on floated sand worms and jelly worms just outside the harbor.

Jeannine Thorne proudly displays her first striper, a 26.4 pounder taken on a red surgical tube off of Makamah Beach. Photo courtesy of O.K. Bait and Tackle.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reports good porgies off Old Field Point and Crane Neck. These are mediums to 2 pounders with an occasional humpback mixed in. Fluke are starting off Mt. Misery Point on sand eels and squid. Some bass at all the points at night on floated worms, cast Rebels and bucktails jigged on the bottom.

KINGS PARK

O.K. Bait & Tackle reports fair bottom fishing for porgies and blackfish out of their station. A few stripers, weaks and blues are being caught on worms or diamond jigs. Commack sharpshooter Don Urbanski bagged stripers of 30 lbs., 27, 27, 21, 14 and 6 lbs. over this past week. He also had bluefish of 12½, 14 and 11½ lbs. All this was on white bucktails on wire line in the Smithtown Bay area. Sal Lengua of Kings Park bagged a 6 lb. 10 oz. black on green crab off the Mansion.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** reported an improvement in the fluke fishing near the Eatons Neck Coast Guard station. Sand eel and squid combos have been accounting for the fish. Blues in the 5 lb. class jigged at the obstruction buoy. Three to four pound weaks being taken evenings at Duck Island on tins and plugs. Loads of small porgies in the bay with bigger fish off of Ashroken. Snappers just getting started.

HUNTINGTON

Capt. Jim of the open boat **Hi-Hook** informs us that Brian and Tara Grossberg fishing with Glen and Laura Shulman of Dix Hills had over 80 porgies and flounder with a lot of humpback porgies thrown in. Charles Geider and group of 7 family members had 150 mixed porgies and flounders on Sunday also. They were from Brooklyn. Robert Zufiacht of Dix Hills on Sunday bagged up with 50 mixed fish all by himself. Best action was between the Lighthouse and Eaton's Neck.

Capt. Don of the **Ever Ready** called to say that he had a solid catch of bluefish on the weekend run. Fern Mulhollen of Hicksville had the first blue on the boat for the day hitting 7¾ lbs. High hook was 45 blues on the 4 hr. run. See ad for details.

This 54½ lb. striper fell for a live eel in Huntington Inlet during a recent run of big fish there. Carl Russo weighed the prize in at Four Winds Tackle Shop in Huntington.

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George Valentine told us from his **Four Winds Bait and Tackle Shop** that Northport Bay is loaded with porgies from ½ to ¾ lbs. They are being taken on worm bait and a few small weaks are mixed with the porgies. Very good blackfishing at Eatons Neck on green crabs despite the late date. Biggest tautog weighed in during the week was an 8¾ lber. Blues up to 17 lbs., bass to 15 lbs. and 8 and 9 lb. weakfish trolled and jigged late last week at Eatons Neck. This fishing never carried through the weekend however. Blues in the 3-6 lb. class jigged in good numbers at Diamond Point Sunday PM. and still plenty of the same size choppers offshore of the Lilco loading platform. A couple of weaks beneath the blues. Some bass being worm trolled at Marshall Field, Target Rock and Whitewood Point.

From Ronnie's Tackle Shop some nice bass weigh ins in recent days. John Munno worm trolled stripers of 20 and 29 lbs., 11 year old Matt Berry had a 26 lber., and George Foster used an eel Friday night to put away a 26½ lb. bass at Marshall Field. Tony Bascilacto and Jim Piacento fished the same grounds over the weekend to take fish of 26, 12, and 8 lbs. on worms. Good bluefishing continues north of the Lilco loading platform for jiggers and trollers and plenty of small porgies being taken on worms at sand city. Bigger fish out in the Sound.

This 49.6 lb. striper was taken on an eel in Hempstead Harbor by Art Miller. The big bass is the current leader in the Glen Cove Sport Shop fishing contest.

North Shore West End

★ BEST BET ★

PORGIES

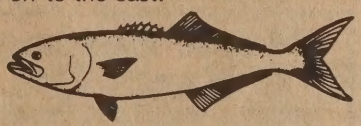
GLEN COVE

Capt. Joe Finke of the **Lady Lil II** says the porgy fishing is still very good, averaging 20 to 60 porgies per man fishing the Northport area. Joe says come on down and catch a dinner plate.

At the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** Dave said that nice sized porgies are being taken on sand worms from any of the local beaches. In addition, there are now plenty of small snappers around for the pier fishermen. He called the bluefishing spotty, although some anglers who have been puttin in the time have been trolling fish on umbrella rigs near the mouth of the harbor. Dave added that there is a lot of big bait in the area including bunker, snappers and tinker mackerel and if the blues move in, they should be around for awhile.

CITY ISLAND

From **Jack's Bait and Tackle**, we learned of good action with nice size porgies at the old CBS tower and Harts Island on worms. Lots of school bass from shorts up to 12 lbs. on Rebels or worms at Harts Island. A few blues at Execution Light and west to Hempstead Harbor, although the main body of choppers still appears to be off to the east.



SURF REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

An encouraging flurry of weakfish activity along South Shore beaches and at Montauk highlights this week's reports.

Positive reports were filed from as diverse points as Atlantic Beach, Fire Island, Southampton and Montauk. Plugs were the ticket in some areas, while the old summer standby, the lowly sand worm, got the nod in others.

Bait fishermen generally have the edge over pluggers during the dog days of July and August as escalating water temperatures make stationary baits such as sand worms, bunker chunks, mackerel fillets and eels all the more appealing to blues, weaks and stripers. Surfmen should concentrate their efforts around the hours of darkness, sunrise or sunset.

This is the way things shaped up after making our usual Monday morning calls:

South Shore

Lenny at **Santos Sport Shop** in Staten Island reported the best bet for casters right now appears to be bluefish which have been taken in the vicinity of Great Kills Park evenings and in the early morning hours on cut bait. Two young surfmen stopped by the shop Monday morning with 14 choppers from 5-8 lbs. which they took on bunker chunks near the foot of Arbutis Avenue. The only bass action in the area continues to be a few small stripers being picked up on sand worms, bucktails or Rebels at Penny Beach and Cliff Street.

In the Jamaica Bay area, Artie told me from his **Cross Bay Tackle Shop** that Jamie Ryan, Ness Albergo, Robert Hagel and Anthony Leuci took 8 blues from 6½ to 10.4 lbs.from the North Channel Bridge on bunker chunks one day late last week. Choppers were still being taken at the bridge Sunday morning. All of the fishing is being done in the early morning hours.

Mike Kalind who handles the chores of publicity chairman for the hard-fishing Striper Surf Club called to report a real good night at some of the Atlantic Beach jetties Saturday night. A half dozen members did a job on weakfish in the 4-8 lb. range on dark finished Rebels, RedFins and Mustangs. In addition, Joe Vezo of Lindenhurst used a 7'' Rebel to put a 24.5 striper on the rocks. The outing did nothing to hurt the Club's standings in the New York State Surf Fishing Contest.

Lon Wanser reported from his Bait and Tackle Shop in Seaford that while things in his area have been quiet, he did know of weakfish being taken along the beach at Fire Island on sand worms. Fishing is being done during the evening hours in the vicinity of Democrat Point. Fish run anywhere from 4-10 lbs.

From **The Store** at Oak Beach, Hays confirmed the weakfish action at Democrat. Hays himself sampled some fast action here one night last week with several other surfmen. According to Hays, some casters had fish on tin before darkness settled in when sand worms took over. Fishing the backside of Robert Moses with fellow Great South Bay Angler Club member Mark Reuschle a couple of nights late last week, we enjoyed some good action with weaks on cast bucktails during the first part of outgoing water. The fish were all from 4 to 8 lbs.

I had it from a couple of reliable

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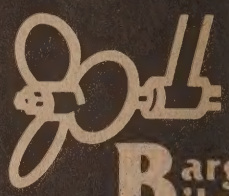

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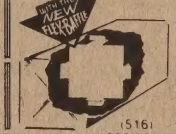

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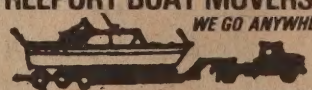

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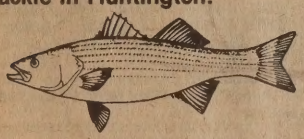
sources that casters continue to pick away at weaks and blues from the Sore Thumb mornings and evenings.

Some bass are apparently mixed with the weaks at Democrat. Carl Miller of **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** in Bay Shore weighed in a pair of stripers for a Brightwaters angler who preferred anonymity. The 18 and 25 lbers. both fell to sand worms at the Point.

Out in Shinnecock, Thom at **Speck's Tackle Shop** reported some weaks being taken along the Southampton Ocean beach on sand worms, Rebels and RedFins. Several bass in the 20 lb. class were taken from the same stretch of beach towards the latter part of last week. Hank of **Altenkirch's Tackle Shop** in Shinnecock had just weighed in an 8 lb. weakfish for Tom Kozinski of Hampton Bays. Tom told Hank that he took the fish on a sand worm early Monday morning at

Scott Jaeggi of Huntington beached this fine 37 lb. striper at Caumsett State Park. The big cow was taken on a Hopkins and weighed at Ronnie's Bait and Tackle in Huntington.



the town beach.

Out in Montauk, Johnny Kronuch spoke of weakfish action up front at False Bar and Evans Rock as well as at Shagwong. Five-and-a-half inch RedFins took fish in the 4-6 lb. range several nights this past week. Johnny heard of no bass or bluefish action to speak of.

North Shore

From his City Island Tackle Shop, Jack repeated the ongoing action with school bass, from shorts to 12 lbs., at Turtle Cove. Worms, bucktails, Rebels and Tri-Fin Whiptails continue to take these fish which have been around through much of the season. Quite a few of the stripers are in the 3-4 lb. class. Lots of fun on light tackle. A few weaks were mixed with the bass last week, but Jack knew of none taken in recent days.

Dave at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** told me that Angie Demeo has been enjoying some good action with school bass and small blues at the mouth of Dosoris Creek on small swimming plugs. Stan S., a regular shop customer, took 5 weaks at Matinecock Point Friday night. Combined weight of the five fish was 18 lbs. For those looking for a little fly rod fun, snappers which are now all over the area are a soft touch for fast work streamers. Jim Lynch used a yellow pattern to take 20 of the little scrappers near the Prybil Pier one morning last week.

The only word on the surf from the Huntington area came from George Valentine at his **Four Winds Tackle Shop**. Things have been dead according to George with the exception of the Lilco plant where there have been plenty of 1-2 lb. blues keeping casters occupied.

As for the eastern North Shore beaches, Stan of the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** reported the only real action has been an occasional flurry of blues. The 1-4 lb. fish come and go and are being taken on tins when they move within range. Plenty of bait in the area according to Stan.

UPDATE ON R.A.M.P. ACTIVITY IN BROOKHAVEN

RAMP (Responsible Approach to Marine Problems) is an organization of fishermen and boaters who were concerned with the poor conditions existing at some of the Town of Brookhaven's public boat launch ramps. Primary focus was placed on ramps located at Stony Brook, Port Jefferson and Mount Sinai.

The first meeting, held on 1/28/80, with L. Benjamin King, Acting Superintendent of Parks, Town of Brookhaven, pinpointed the specific problems existing at the boat launch ramps; solutions were offered. Subsequent meetings included the Town's traffic/safety department and engineering department. RAMP also met with officials of the Village of Port Jefferson.

RESULTS TO DATE:

PORT JEFFERSON RAMP: Parking lot redesigned to facilitate traffic flow; West entrance widened and designated entrance only at peak traffic times—exit at traffic light; underwater debris removed; stacking lane inside parking lot to avoid traffic back-up on main street; bluestone chips spread at the end of ramp in an attempt to level off sharp dropoff; town employees will be more involved with direction of traffic at ramp; Floating Docks will be installed, tentatively scheduled for Summer, 1980.

MOUNT SINAI RAMP: underwater debris removed; ramp repaved to accommodate three boats; study under way to consider possible extension of ramp.

STONY BROOK: To be further studied with emphasis on changing present slope which currently appears to be inadequate.

Mr. King has regularly kept us informed on the progress at the ramps and has been responsive to every complaint.

Update from Mr. King: Forge River Ramp—will be widened to accommodate five to six boats. Maple Ave. Ramp, East Moriches, to be studied with emphasis on renovation.

For further information on RAMP and what it is doing, contact Lorry Mangan, RAMP Coordinator, 928-1347.

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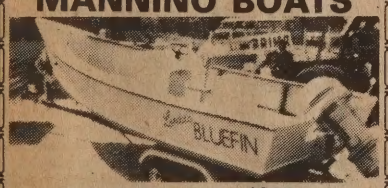

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33' CONCORDE Brigantine, recently repowered; VHF, CB, Ross recorder. Elec. refrig; pressure water, galley, head. Sleeps 6. Dual control stations, 220 gal. gas capacity, Monel shafts. Teak cockpit and trim. Bimini top. Extra props. Original owner. At Babylon Marine, 516-587-0333 days.

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1979 15' IMAGE, 55 h.p. Evinrude. Full canvas, compass, elec. bilge pump. Two months use. Bal. mfg. warranty. Sacrifice; moving. Paid $6000. Asking $5500. Many extras. 212-474-8688 after 5PM.

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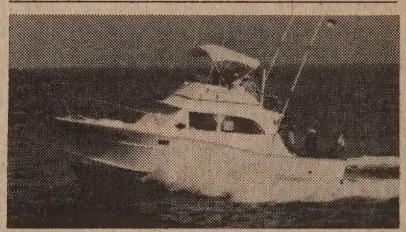

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28' DORSETT - Fiberglas Sportfisherman. Flybridge T.S. 180 Crusders; FWC, Bimini, SS tanks. Fighting chair; Ross recorder. Top shape. Loaded. 212-680-3857.

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PACEMAKER '77 28' F.G. Express Cruiser, 220 Crusader. Full galley; sleeps 4. Stand-up head and vanity. All canvas; much more. $15,000. After 6PM. 212-474-6422.

17' CACCI Craft, Fiberglas, 90 h.p. Johnson. Two gas cans, canvas cover. Holsclaw tilt trailer. Asking $1200. 516-734-5397.

1977 SHAMROCK 20' Inboard, center console; 195 h.p. OMC 305 option. Outriggers, Bimini top; CB, compass, depth recorder. Low hours; super condition. Great offshore boat. Must sell. 516-759-1653 Evenings. 516-671-5621 Days.

AQUASPORT 19.6', all weather enclosure, twin 70 h.p. Johnsons, S/S props., bait wells, gauges, paper recorder. Galvanized tandem trailer. Winter cover; CG pkg. Many, many extras. Excellent condition. $7495. 516-691-7036.

1959 NOVI 38' Lobster/Dragger. Loaded. Cedar on oak. Hydroslave 14 in. hauler, double masts and booms. Stern gallows, nets and doors, deck lights for night work; 3 straight line/white line recorders, Furuno, SI-Tex, Loran C by SI-Tex; VHF, CB. New engine, 2.5 gear/Paragon. Excellent condition. Fishing daily; buying larger vessel. 203-376-3962.

1979 EVINRUDES 1979
2-$260; 4-$395; 6-$570; 9.9 - $700; 15-$800; 25-$968; 35-$1070; 55-$1570; 70-$1800; 85-$2080; 100-$2170; 115-$2250; 140-$2350; 150-$2975; 175-$3100; 200-$3255; 235-$3400. ELECTRA MARINE, 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOB/H. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere.

BOATING EQPT.

TRAILER HITCHES—The most complege Draw-tite line of Class I & II hitches in stock in L.I. Sales, installations & service. TOM CASH WELDING, Lake Ronkonkoma. 516-JU 8-6143.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single and tandem axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & Permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-06 Broadway, Woodside, NY 212-426-7039,.

COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES
Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie Compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

FOREAN KUSTOM UPHOLSTERY—Custom made seats of all types. Buy local, not Florida; save freight, and middleman mark-up. FOREAN KUSTOM, 25 New York Avenue, Huntington. 516-549-9489.

CHART PAPER in stock for most depth recorders; also crystals to add channels to your VHF radio, while you wait. Where else but at HEINE MARINE ELECTRONICS, 250 Montauk Highway, Islip. Open daily, except Sunday, till 6PM. 516-581-0194.

MISCELLANEOUS

Custom 4WD Camper. "Incredible Hulk." Ideal weekender. 516-798-0388.

"Fool's Gold." See what it looks like; do not be fooled. Sample mix with one ounce of sand. $1.00. R. Garcia, P. O. Box 375, Yonkers, N.Y. 10704.

FISHERMEN'S BELT BUCKLES—Solid pewter. Beautiful antique brass finish. Striper, bluefish, tuna, porgy, fluke/flounder, shark, harpoon head. Really beautiful! $7 ea. P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, N.Y. 11566.

$.30 for each envelope you address. For application, send Stamped, addressed envelope to: J.S., Dept. M, P.O. Box 67, Ryder Station, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234.

Mobile Service engine and transmission rebuilding. Rebuilt starters and alternators. Lawrence B. Feis, Marine engine specialist. 516-766-4345.

LOOKING FOR: Used sport fishing equipment. Must be in excellent condition. Call Capt. Ben's, 516-378-6575. Fight. chairs, tuna belts, etc.

Lobster Traps. Lobster fishing equipment. Buoys, warp, funnels, haulers, lath, frames. Everything! After 5PM. 516-427-4063.

BOAT INSURANCE—Wide range of coverage for pleasure and commercial vessels. Personal Service. Excess Insurance. Call: 516-489-9083. GBZ COMPANY, 507 Chestnut St., West Hempstead, N.Y. 11552.

Al Grover's will broker ANY reasonably priced Mako and move it fast. All new Makos in stock—always/ AL GROVER'S, 195 Woodcleft Ave., Freeport, N.Y. 11520. 516-FR 8-0510.

BOAT INSURANCE—All risk; 12-month policy with unrestricted navigational limits. Extremely competitive rates. Quick quotations. PAUL KRAUSE, 145 Higbie Lane, West Islip, New York 11795. 516-587-7837.

Marine Transport—T.K.'s BOAT HAULING. You call; we haul! 24 hr. Emergency Service. Local & Long Distance; launching and hauling at any desired location. Up to 35'. Fully insured carrier. Call: T.K., 516-623-2967.

BOAT INSURANCE—Competitive rates. All types & all sizes. Also motorcycle & other recreational vehicle insurance. Premium financing arranged. EDELMAN INSURANCE, 16 W. Hoffman Ave., Lindenhurst, NY 11757. 516-226-0275.

Boat slip for rent. Freeport. Prime commercial location. Ideal for 6-man charter boat. 516-352-2986. After 7PM.

CHINESE RECIPES for seafood, wild game. Tempting, different. $3.00 to: DaZe, Box 610F, Floral Park, NY 11002.

WHOLESALE MARINE SUPPLIES. Marine fasteners wholesale. Stainless, Silicon bronze. Complete line. O-Rings, shop parts, Grade 5, 8, farm, industrial fasteners. Free Catalog and delivery Suffolk County. 516-281-3366. ARON-MARINE, 61 Mastic Beach, NY 11951.

FREE CATALOG—Fishermen's pewter belt buckles. P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.

REAL ESTATE

MASTIC BEACH, Longfellow Dr.—4 lots, block from Mastic Beach Property Owner Marina. Accept reasonable offer. Owner: 212-548-2950.

BEACH BUGGIES

1970 INTERNATIONAL 3/4 ton beach equipped. Four-wheel Dr. Four extra snow tires & rims. Asking: $1000. 516-667-0336.

FISHING TACKLE

Catch more fish...with superior designed saltwater rigs. Send for free catalog now!!! HUDSON TACKLE, Dept I, P. O. Box 437, Kearny, NJ 07032

FLOUNDER KILLER RIGS: Flounders are committing suicide on this famous 3-hook rig especially designed for the "meat fisherman." Special design and construction keeps tangles at a minimum. All hand-made; finest quality material. Three completely tied rigs for $3.50. Send check or M.O. to: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.

New...limited. The hottest new lure for blues, weakfish, stripers. We call it the Anchovy Jig; you can call it bunker jig, smelt jig, sardine jig, or baitfish jig. Bluefish call it too good to resist. 4¼ oz. Chrome anchovy, plain hook - $3.00. Tube tail - $3.50. Limit 2; we pay shipping. LURE MASTER TACKLE CO., 105-05 Liberty Avenue, Richmond Hill, N.Y. 11417. 212-843-9106.

Would you like to have the perfect metal lures that all fishermen are looking for. One that is the best for jigging or trolling, and casts the farthest. One that carries the surgi-tube, rubber fish tails and pork rind the best? One that won't spin, sink or plane up. With no rod action or swivels, they swim zigzag with a flashing wobble, just like an injured fish that all game fish in fresh or salt water will go for as an easy meal. The Spug, Sico, Veeny & Demo, a swimming popper, has all these patented features. Try one; money back guarantee. If you have indigestion, heartburn, ulcers or hiatus hernia; the lining of your stomach and intestines is being slowly eaten away. For a permanent cure, send your receipt for $10 worth of the above lures to the MINNOE LURE CO., Box 98, Milford, Ct. or $10 (Save hundreds of dollars for relief).

DOORMAT FLUKE—two hook deluxe rig bags the big ones: $1.75 each. Check or M.O. to: SPENCER'S RIGS, 573, East 28th Street Brooklyn, N.Y. 11210.

FLUKE KILLER RIGS—Beware of imitations. The ultimate in deadly, double hook design. Long the secret of the "Pros." You will hook more and lose fewer fluke, since fish can't avoid fully adjustable tail hook. All hand tied; finest materials. Pays for itself in fluke dinners. 3 rigs for $3.50. P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, N.Y. 11566.

New Products

NEW "WOBBLE EEL" FISHING LURE

The "Wobble Eel," a new lure especially designed to attract striped bass, bluefish, pollack, and cod by simulating the undulations of the sand eel, is now available from the Bead Chain Tackle Company.

The lure which combines rod-thumping action and super nickel-plating to draw fish from long distances, can be obtained in three and four ounce sizes with tails in a choice of hot red, black, or hot green.

Equally suited to trolling, casting and jigging, it also featres a resilient Mustad 9/0 Bent Limerick Hook.

The Wobble Eel is the latest in a comprehensive line of terminal tackle manufactured by the Bead Chain Tackle Company. The firm, a division of Bead Chain Manufacturing Company, is located at 247 Mountain Grove St., Bridgeport, Ct. 06605; (203) 334-4124.

BOATLIFE INTRODUCES FIBERGLAS CLEANER AND STAIN REMOVER

BoatLIFE, Inc., of Old Bethpage, New York has just introduced a non-abrasive, high performance cleaner and stain remover for fiberglas, wood and aluminum hulls. Marketed under the name of Fiberglass Kreme Cleaner & Stain Remover works equally well with fresh or salt water and is especially formulated to remove oxidation, algae, rust, and exhaust stains from fiberglas and aluminum. It is also effective in removing stains from life lines, ventilators, fenders, cowls, dock guards, and rubrails. No compounding is necessary and it is harmless to gel coats, wood finishes or sealants.

Fiberglass Kreme Cleaner & Stain Remover is sold nation-wide through retailers who carry BoatLIFE products. Available in 16 oz. jars, the suggested retail price is $5.95.

ACCUTEMP FOR FISHING

Two new models of surface water temperature indicating systems, designated Accutemp 100 and Accutemp 200 are now available from Intermarine Electronics, Inc. Both models are in full production following the test marketing of 200 units in the Northeast this spring.

The attractive slimpack indicator units are made of tough cycolac material and measure 3.6''x5.75''x 1.12''. They feature a 0.5'' digit LCD readout, which is back-lit in the model 200. Each is supplied with a 5'' brass probe and 25' of cable; the probe contains a potted transistor which gives 1° linearity from -40°C or F to 150°C or 199.9°F.

Accutemp 100 is portable, being operated from a 9V transistor battery and is calibrated in celsius and fahrenheit (switchable).

A mounting bracket for the indicator and nylon clamps for transom mounting the probe are included. An optional item is a bronze thru-hull mount fitted with a pressure gland which allows the easy withdrawal of the probe for inspection or replacement—without hauling the boat.

Suggested list prices f.o.b. St. James are: Accutemp 100, $189.; Accutemp 200, $229; Thru-Hull Mount, $15; extra probes, $48.

For further information contact: D.K. Dickenson, Intermarine Electronics, Flowerfield Bldg. 7, St. James, N.Y. 11780, 516-584-8990.

NEW "TOP MINNER" FROM MANN'S

The recently-introduced line of Hackleback lures from Mann's Bait Company has a unique addition in the new Top Minner, a reflector-type top-water lure suitable for all species of surfacing game fish.

Appropriate for both fresh and saltwater fishing, the Top Minner is particularly deadly on bass, bluefish, and speckled trout. The lure has been constructed with the finesse required to catch big freshwater lunkers, but also has the durability necessary to handle the bigger bluefish.

Covering all possible fishing situations and water conditions, the Top Minner is available in both a Golden and Silver Shiner, with a choice of red, black, blue, or gray backs.

From Mann's Bait Company, P. O. Box 604, Eufaula, AL 36027.

LOOK FOR THIS SIGN IN YOUR FAVORITE FISHING CENTER!!!

The Long Island FISHERMAN

OFFICIAL WEIGH STATION

This establishment is an OFFICIAL WEIGH STATION of *The Fisherman* magazine for the *Skillful Angling Award* program, the *Sport Fishing World Series* and the *I.G.F.A. World Record Fishing Contest.*

★ ELIGIBLE SPECIES ★

The following fifteen species are those that are eligible for *Skillful Angling Awards, Sport Fishing World Series* and the *I.G.F.A. World Record Contest:*

—INSHORE BOTTOM FISH—

Eligible Species:	Minimum Weight:
FLOUNDER	2
BLACKFISH	5
COD	30
PORGY	3
SEABASS	3

—INSHORE GAME FISH—

Eligible Species:	Minimum Weight:
STRIPED BASS	30
BLUEFISH	15
WEAKFISH	10
POLLACK	20
FLUKE	6

—OFFSHORE BIG GAME—

Eligible Species:	Minimum Weight:
BLUEFIN TUNA	300
BLUE SHARK	150
MAKO SHARK	200
WHITE MARLIN	65
SWORDFISH	No Minimum

SKILLFUL ANGLING AWARDS

Skillful Angling Awards* are given to anglers that catch fish larger than the minimum weights that have been established for each species. All you have to do is weigh the fish in at an *Official Weigh Station* and fill out a Weigh-In Slip. You'll receive your 8½ x 11-inch *Skillful Angling Award* certificate and patch in a few weeks. *That's it!

SPORT FISHING WORLD SERIES

Subscribers of *The Fisherman* are eligible to participate in the yearly *Sport Fishing World Series,* which is based on the *Skillful Angling Awards* that are issued between June 1st and November 1st. The *Series* is scored on an accumulated point basis, based on the following scoring system: Largest fish—25 pts.; 2nd largest—24 pts.; 3rd largest—23 pts.; 25th largest—1 pt. Only the 25 largest fish of each eligible species will score points. Those accumulating the most points during the *Series* will win the following CASH PRIZES:

FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH	6th thru 25th–
$1000	$500	$250	$100	$50	$25

In addition to the $2,300 in *CASH PRIZES* for the above, the subscribers catching the largest fish of each species will win $100!

IGFA WORLD RECORD CONTEST

$250 FOR ANY SUBSCRIBER OF *THE FISHERMAN* WHO SETS A NEW I.G.F.A. WORLD LINE CLASS RECORD.

$1000 FOR ANY SUBSCRIBER OF *THE FISHERMAN* WHO SETS A NEW I.G.F.A. WORLD ALL-TACKLE RECORD.

$5000 FOR ANY SUBCRIBER OF *THE FISHERMAN* WHO SETS A NEW I.G.F.A. WORLD ALL-TACKLE RECORD FOR *STRIPED BASS.*

To be eligible to participate in *The Sport Fishing World Series* and the *I.G.F.A. Record Contest* you must be a paid subscriber to either *The Long Island Fisherman, The New Jersey Fisherman,* or *The New England Fisherman* at the time all fish are caught. You *do not* have to be a subscriber in order to be eligible to receive a *Skillful Angling Award.* For further info call (516) 725-4200, or write to:

***THE FISHERMAN* • BOX 1994 • SAG HARBOR, NEW YORK 11963**

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	–	12:20	11:40	–	12:35	1:15	1:25	2:05	3:20	3:50	3:15	3:45	–	12:15	7/17
FRI.	12:20	1:05	12:05	12:25	1:20	1:55	2:15	2:55	3:55	4:25	4:00	4:30	12:30	1:05	7/18
SAT.	1:05	1:50	12:55	1:10	2:00	2:40	3:05	3:45	4:40	5:10	4:50	5:20	1:20	1:55	7/19
SUN.	1:55	2:35	1:40	2:00	2:40	3:20	4:00	4:35	5:30	5:55	5:40	6:05	2:10	2:45	7/20
MON.	2:40	3:30	2:35	2:55	3:25	4:10	4:55	5:25	6:25	6:45	6:30	7:00	3:05	3:40	7/21
TUE.	3:40	4:25	3:30	3:50	4:25	5:05	5:50	6:15	7:25	7:40	7:25	7:50	4:00	4:30	7/22
WED.	4:45	5:20	4:30	4:50	5:30	6:00	6:40	7:00	8:30	8:30	8:20	8:40	4:55	5:20	7/23
THUR.	5:45	6:15	5:30	5:55	6:30	6:50	7:25	7:40	9:20	9:20	9:15	9:30	5:45	6:10	7/24

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

7/18	5:40	8:32
7/19	5:41	8:31
7/20	5:42	8:30
7/21	5:43	8:29
7/22	5:43	8:29
7/23	5:44	8:28
7/24	5:45	8:27

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
7/12	7/20	7/27	7/5

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	9:30	**3:40**	10:00	**4:00**
Fri.	10:15	**4:25**	10:35	**4:45**
Sat.	11:00	**5:10**	11:20	**5:30**
Sun.	11:45	**5:55**	—	**6:20**
Mon.	12:05	**6:35**	12:35	**7:00**
Tues.	12:45	**7:15**	1:15	**7:40**
Wed.	1:25	**8:00**	1:55	**8:25**
Thurs.	2:10	**8:45**	2:40	**9:10**

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

and receive a *Bridgeport*

WOBBLE EEL

FREE

You will also save $17 a year off the regular newsstand price!

The *Bridgeport* WOBBLE EEL is a new fishing lure especially designed to attract game fish such as stripers, bluefish, pollack and cod by simulating the undulations of a sand eel. This lure combines rod-thumping action with a super nickel plating to draw fish from long distances, and it is equally suited for trolling, casting or jigging.

Bridgeport Silverware
Subsidiary of
The Bead Chain Mfg. Co.
231 Mountain Grove St.
Bridgeport, CT 06605

YOUR FREE GIFT

★ Please Allow Six Weeks for Delivery of your *Wobble Eel* ★

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